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*Annual Journal*

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# 1946 JOURNAL

## OF THE

# Edmonton Military Institute

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### EDMONTON, ALBERTA

W. M Kerr, Editor

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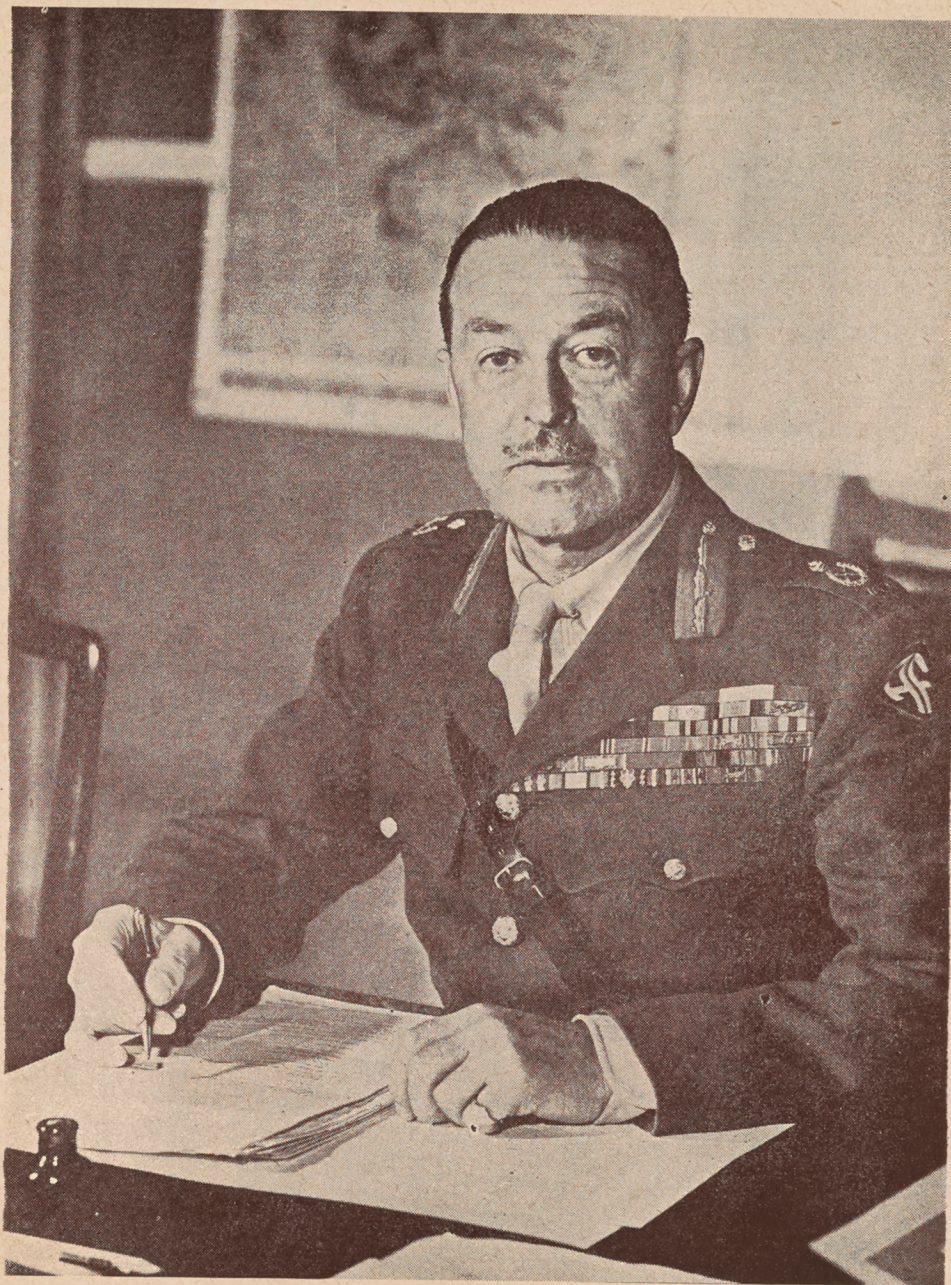
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Governor General of Canada.





The Hon. J. C. Bowen, L.L.D., Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta,  
Hon. Col. of the C.O.T.C. (Alberta)



## **A Message from The Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta**

**THE HON. J. C. BOWEN, L.L.D., HON. COL. OF THE  
C.O.T.C. (ALBERTA)**

In her times of National crisis, where did Canada find officers for the three active service formations? Two wars in a quarter of a century, and in a nation with no standing army, where did trained leaders come from? For the most part, they volunteered from the National Defence units scattered across the country; Civilian soldiers, who in the face of distressing public apathy, trained with units of the various branches of the Defence formations, and thereby kept alive the spirit of the citizen soldier, and his duty to his country.

Military Institutes, as independent organizations, greatly facilitated the theoretical training of officers. In the Institutes, which are in reality officers' clubs; lectures, and confidential information on scientific practices of modern warfare are provided. In this way these organizations effectively supplement the practical training and experience of officers.

Many junior officers who enlisted from the voluntary National Defence units rose to high ranking position while on active service. The remarkable number of special awards and decorations obtained by officers and men, for distinguished service in two wars, is a lasting tribute to the character, and efficiency of the Canadian civilian soldier.

We shall continue to have in Edmonton, National Defence Units in training. It is very desirable that these formations receive public encouragement and recognition. From such units as these we cheered marching heroes returning home. The Military Institute has always been a faithful ally of these training formations. The continued effectiveness of this organization may be greatly advanced by the co-operation of all officers, active and retired. A very worthwhile contribution may be made by officers who have returned from the late war. Their special knowledge of modern warfare, and the exchange of experiences will be of incalculable value to junior officers. Above all the Institute should be the centre for renewal of friendships and the place where the spirit of active service comradeship is kept alive.



## In Memoriam



ANDERSON, PETER, LT. COL. D.S.O.

BAKER, J. D. HON. LT. COL.

BOWEN, P. E. LT. COL. V.D.

BUCK, F. J. LIEUT.

BURY, W. G. MAJOR,  
KILLED IN ACTION IN ITALY

CAMERON, D. E. MAJOR

CARSTAIRS, W. F. W. LT.-COL.

DAWES, L. F. LIEUT.

GOULD, CECIL, LIEUT.

GRIESBACH, W. A., MAJOR GEN. THE HON.,  
C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., K.C.

GROFF, H. K. LT. COL.

HALL, JOHN, CAPT.

LYNDON, C. A. LT. COL.  
KILLED IN ACTION AT HONG KONG

REYNOLDS, G. G. CAPT. THE REV.

ROSE, W. S., CAPT.

SAMUEL, A. E., CAPT.



## EDITORIAL

ON the outbreak of World War II the Edmonton Military Institute at a general meeting in October, 1939, decided that the Institute would suspend operations for the duration of the war. The last issue of the Journal, therefore, was in 1939. Unlike the Alberta Military Institute of Calgary who carried on during the whole period of the war, the affairs of the Institute were carried on by a Board of Trustees with the result that when the Institute again became active we found it necessary to pick up the threads over the war years, and this has to a certain extent mitigated against the financial end of publishing the Journal. However, we hope that from now on the advertisers will recognize the Edmonton Military Institute Journal as a permanent fixture and give it their support annually.

It was with great regret that the executive and members of the Institute learned of the death of the previous Editor, Lt.-Col. C. A. Lyndon, 19th Alberta Dragoons, who was killed in action while taking part in the ill-fated Hong Kong expedition in December, 1941. Col. Lyndon was very active in the affairs of the Institute and particularly so as Editor of the Journal and will be greatly missed by the Executive and members of the Institute.

In this issue of the Journal we have included a short history of all the units mobilized in the Edmonton district. Edmonton can be proud of the record of its citizen soldiers in the number of units formed from units of the N.P.A.M. who saw active service in World War II. There are two units of the N.P.A.M. who were not mobilized for active service as such but who nevertheless supplied drafts of men in the formation of other units. The 19th Alberta Dragoons supplied one complete Company for the South Alberta Regiment and 50% of the 31st Alberta Recce Regiment. "E" Troop Cavalry Signals, R.C.C.S., supplied officers, N.C.O.'s and other ranks for units of the first divisional Signals of the active Army. In addition, a number of Edmontonians saw service with the Navy and 418 Squadron (City of Edmonton) R.C.A.F.

Now that the Institute has taken on a new lease of life it may perhaps be as well to remind our members that the Institute is one of the oldest Institutions of its nature in western Canada. It was incorporated on February 16, 1912, under Chapter 72 of the Statutes of Alberta 1911-12, and the Charter provides that the function of the Institute is for the purpose of military study for its members, and for social purposes. The Charter also authorizes the purchase of a site and the erection of a club building in the City of Edmonton, and while the time is not opportune at the moment to implement this provision of the Charter due to the inflated values of real estate, lack of materials, etc., etc., it is an object which the Institute is keeping before it, and it is hoped that in the not too distant future suitable club premises may be obtained, centrally located, where the functions of the Institute may be carried out. In some of the larger cities of Canada, the Institutes have commodious premises in which any member of the Services, either active or retired, may find accommodation, refreshments, etc., and it is felt that as the years go on the establishment of a



similar Institute building in Edmonton is essential, particularly in view of the reorganization of the system of Command in Canada, in which Edmonton will play a prominent part as the Headquarters of Western Command. It is with regret that the Institute learns of the pending retirement of Maj.-Gen. F. F. Worthington, G.O.C. Western Army Command, and our best wishes go to "Worthy" for many years in which to enjoy a well earned rest.

Now that the Armed Forces of Canada have been reorganized, it is felt that the Institute can offer a great deal of assistance to Reserve units particularly in connection with the citizen's committees which have been set up in Western Command and which originated in M.D. 13 and, if the Reserve Navy, Army and Air Force is to be truly representative, every support should be given to it by civilians in all walks of life. A large percentage of the membership of the Institute are, of course, officers who have seen service in the World Wars I and II and the Boer War, and many have had long service in the NonPermanent Active Militia between wars. Their experience is invaluable to the younger members who now constitute the Reserve Units. Let us all get behind the Reserve organizations so that insofar as the Edmonton area is concerned a strong and representative Reserve force can be established.

Prior to 1939, Edmonton was largely an Army Centre. The R.C.N.V.R. and R.C.A.F. were not represented in any great strength. However, under the reorganization of the Armed Forces, Edmonton will have a Reserve Squadron of the R.C.A.F. which perpetuates the 418 Squadron (City of Edmonton) R.C.A.F. H.M.C.S. Nonsuch is now functioning and a considerable number of R.C.N.(R) officers are on its strength. A warm welcome is extended to all members of the Navy and Air Force Reserve units to participate in the activities in the Institute and undoubtedly the executive and Board of Directors for 1947 will include representatives of all three Services. During the past year a number of interesting lectures have been given by members of all Services and in the future we shall, no doubt, have a further series of talks covering the various phases of the war just ended and the present matters of organization and training in the Reserve units of the three Services.

The Executive and Board of Directors extends to all members of the Edmonton Military Institute, its best wishes for a successful and prosperous year throughout 1947.

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# Major-General The Hon. W. A. Griesbach

C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., K.C.

JANUARY 1878 - JANUARY 1945

## A Tribute



The late Major-General  
The Hon. W. A. Griesbach

**"He was a man of Real Quality."**

In these words two years ago an editorial writer in the "Winnipeg Free Press" truly summed up the character of one of Canada's outstanding Sons.

Many of us who knew and loved General Griesbach were absent on active service when the news of his death came and it grieved us that we were unable to be here then to pay our respects to his memory.

For many years he was the Honourary President of this Institute, giving it his active support. Never a year went by without a stimulating address to the members on some important phase in Canadian or World affairs. In these addresses and in his articles in the Annual Journal he expressed his views fearlessly and with a vision which was almost prophetic. A staunch believer in the destiny of the British Commonwealth of Nations, he upheld at every opportunity the vital neces-

sity of Canada remaining within the British orbit.

Canada has produced no finer soldier. For soldiering was his true love and it may be truthfully said that he was never really out of uniform from the time he enlisted as a trooper in the Boer War to the time of his retirement as Inspector-General of the Canadian Army in Western Canada in 1943. His thoroughness, his knowledge of every phase of military activity, from minor administrative details to the larger fields of tactics and strategy made him "the finest Inspector-General Canada has ever had." For years to come wherever military men gather in the West, stories of his inspections will be recounted with gusto. Outwardly austere, actually he was very human and always his chief concern was the welfare of the common soldier.

We shall long remember him for his fine soldierly qualities, his statesmanship and his generous, kindly nature.



## OUR POST-WAR ARMY

BY MAJOR-GENERAL F. F. WORTHINGTON,  
GOC WESTERN COMMAND



Major General F. F. Worthington,  
C.B., M.C., M.M.  
GOC Western Command  
Canadian Army

There is an old doggerel written some two hundred or more years ago, which has a very human element and indicates that we have not changed greatly as a people. If my memory serves correctly, it goes something like this:

“When war is right, and danger’s  
nigh,  
God and the soldier is all the cry,  
When war is over, and wrongs are  
righted  
God is forgotten, and the soldier  
slighted.”

This unpopularity of the Army during periods of peace is traditional. It has sprung from many sources. Certainly in the distant past, tyranny had much to do with it. Taking the social development of the English people as our guide of study, one must go a long way back before we can find a time when military service was regarded as a part of English liberty, but the view once did exist that training for military service was a

sign of self-respect and self-reliance; a time when hardly a village did not have some form of military organization, and when every man performed this service. The men of Agincourt and Crecy were of this breed, and so were Cromwell’s Ironsides, sturdy yeoman stock, from which sprang the same men and women who carried freedom to North America three hundred years ago.

The most notable decline in the popularity of the Army appears to have occurred during the centuries following the wars of Marlborough. During this period the Army was divorced from the people. The rank and file was made up mainly from the lowest elements of society, and foreign mercenaries. The officers came largely from the monied and leisure classes, for the simple reason they could not exist on the pay otherwise.

For a short time during the Napoleonic Wars, the Army became more popular than the Navy, but in the long peace, the Army reverted back to conditions similar to that before the War. It was neglected and degraded, and had it not been for the faithful devotion of a few officers and men, who had to build their own world surrounded by indifference, apathy and antagonism, it would have dissolved into a meaningless thing.

The regular Army were looked upon as hirelings and mercenaries. Men doing part-time service, in what was called the Territorials, the Militia, the



National Guards or the Volunteers, were sneered at and called various derogatory names such as "Saturday Night Soldiers" and the like.

During two World Wars, the "Saturday Night Soldiers" saved us from destruction. But hardly had the smell of powder and the stench of battle drifted from our nostrils, after the first World War, then any popularity that the Army may have achieved during the years of the war, soon receded into the background. Disparagement of the soldier and our Army was aided and abetted by various organizations, many of which were the unwitting tools of subversive forces, whose aim and object was to destroy the freedom which allowed them to exist.

In these two World Wars, where the total might of the democratic nations have been welded together in a mighty machine for the defence of freedom and Christianity, it must be evident that the full power and momentum was achieved through the overwhelming majority of the people, irrespective of creed, color or politics, who are wholeheartedly behind our struggle.

This has been called a nation in arms, motivated by a definite determination to survive. This gives us a clue to the future. History proves that the Armed Forces receive public support only when either there was urgent danger and such support was largely dictated by survival, or when the Armed Forces were the people's responsibility and were brought closely into their ways of life.

Around us today we see signs of repeating the errors of the past. Subversive elements are hard at work either directly or indirectly, influencing either the knowing or the unknowing. Some weeks ago a foreigner spoke to an assembly in the city of Calgary and denounced the British. The terms he used was "Throw the British into the sea," and he received the applause of the audience. Had this same man appeared upon the platform twenty-four months earlier and made the same statement, it is doubtful if he would have avoided personal injury.

A newspaper recently referred to Reserve Force soldiers as "tin soldiers." Eighteen months earlier they would not have dared make such a statement.

And so is the trend. To fight the battle as we, the Army, have done in the past, by ourselves, divorced from the public, means a gradual weakening of our resources. On the other hand, looking back, we can see that whenever the Anglo-Saxon has been called to defend his liberty, his response has been magnificent and his courage indomitable. I submit, therefore, that our salvation rests only in the backing and confidence of the people.

How is this to be accomplished? Must the Armed Forces ingratiate themselves with the people or will the people adopt the Armed Forces? Will they make it a personal interest and responsibility to see that the Armed Forces are equipped and trained to defend that freedom and democracy of which we talk — but in peace time at least, do so little? Now is the time — now the opportunity.

The object and reason for our Armed Forces is the defence of Canada and our freedom, whether it be at home or abroad. If it so happens that we are fortunate enough to defend our country outside of Canada, so much the better. But the protection and defence of our homes and freedom is our first and main



consideration. Surely it is a matter which concerns every Canadian, in and out of uniform. Surely he must do his utmost to ensure that an adequately trained and equipped force will be maintained as the best assurance against disaster.

That Force, Active and Reserve, must be comprised of young men of high physical and moral standards, who will be taught a high sense of citizenship and responsibility. The belief that a man in uniform is an old soak and that Armouries are glorified beer parlours, must be killed. Relatively few men indulge in obscenities, but there must be no place for them in the Forces. They mend their ways or get out.

Our training should be based on realism. We cannot expect the people to pay taxes and the cost of an Armed Force unless there is something to show for it, in the form of security and preservation of peace. We must admit freely that we are training our men to defend our country. Therefore, our ultimate aim is to train men to fight and let us be honest, to defeat the enemy; and the enemy of our country is any Force who dares set foot on Canadian soil, with hostile intent.

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# The Canadian Army and Reserve Force Citizens' Committees

BY COLONEL T. E. D'O. SNOW, O.B.E., DISTRICT OFFICER COMMANDING,  
MILITARY DISTRICT 13

## CANADIAN ARMY PRIOR TO WORLD WAR II

The Canadian Army, prior to World War II, consisted of:

- (a) The Permanent Active Militia, commonly known as the Permanent Force.
- (b) The Non-Permanent Active Militia.
- (c) The Reserve Militia.

The authorized strength of the Permanent Force was 10,000 but at no time was the strength of the P.F. greater than 4,500 and usually the "Limited Peace Establishment" did not allow it to go much beyond 3,000 all ranks.

The Non-Permanent Active Militia had an authorized strength of 90,000 but, under the voluntary system of enlistment, it was never possible to raise more than 55,000. Even during the "best" years the numbers permitted to be paid for training were usually well below 50,000.

During the years between the two Great Wars, when the democracies were disarming in the face of an armaments race by the Totalitarian States, Canada's defence forces reached its lowest ebb in the 1930's.

Uniforms were old and worn. Equipment was extremely scarce and a great deal that we had was obsolete. Units built Mortars, Anti-Tank Rifles and Guns out of wood and carried these on manoeuvres. There was never sufficient ammunition. Artillery Batteries were authorized to fire only a few rounds each year.

The pay was poor and training grants practically non-existent. Officers, N.C.O.'s and men usually pooled their pay in order to keep their unit out of financial deep water.

It was only because of the loyalty of the Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Militia who gave so generously of their time, energy and money that Canada was able to retain some semblance of an Army in the years before World War II. To these men, who were so often despised and ridiculed by those with a lesser sense of duty, the people of Canada should be forever grateful.



Col. T. E. D'O. SNOW, O.B.E.  
DOC. M.D. 13



## RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE CANADIAN ARMY

At the cessation of hostilities of World War II, the main emphasis was placed on the demobilization of Canada's wartime army. The planning for the new Peace Time Army had not been neglected, however, and it came into being on 1st October, 1946.

The New Canadian Army will comprise:

- (a) The Active Force.
- (b) The Reserve Force.
- (c) The Supplementary Reserve.

The Active Force, of approximately 25,000, will consist of a Brigade Group, plus Headquarters Staffs, personnel for administration and training of the Reserve Force, Schools and Training Establishments, Support and Maintenance Units and Research and Development Establishments. The Brigade Group will comprise about 25% of the Active Force. It will be maintained as a Field Force, fully equipped with the most up-to-date types of equipment and trained in the latest methods of warfare. The Brigade Group will consist of three Infantry Battalions, one Artillery Field Regiment, and all the other Ancillary troops usually associated with a Brigade Group.

The Reserve Force, of approximately 180,000, will consist of personnel who will train on a part time basis. This force will comprise four Infantry Divisions and two Armoured Divisions, Corps and Army Troops as well as Coast Defence and Anti-Aircraft units. The Staffs and Units comprising the Reserve Force would form the basis of mobilization of a Field Force and of our Coastal and Anti-Aircraft Defence in the event of an emergency.

Compare these total figures of 205,000 with those of the Canadian Army, prior to World War II. The New Canadian Army is nearly four times larger.

Why is it necessary to have much larger forces in our peace time Army now? In this connection, the Minister of National Defence has stated:—

"Many people believe that with the development of new weapons—the atomic bomb for example—the requirement for large armed forces is dispensed with to a great extent. I think it is a bit too early to make this assumption. History has shown us that with new developments, the technique of waging war has changed; but almost invariably with each new development the number of men required has increased.

"There are two main factors influencing the size of Canada's Armed Forces. The first is that sufficient manpower should be available which, in the event of an emergency, could provide the nucleus of trained personnel for the organization and speedy mobilization of the civilian population.

"The second factor is, of course, the extent of Canada's military obligations to the United Nations Organization. What these obligations and commitments will ultimately be insofar as Canada is concerned, we do not know. Until these matters are decided, the nature and size of our immediately available force must remain somewhat tentative.

"Canada, while a large country in terms of territory, in terms of population, is a comparatively small country. We have never had large standing



forces. On the contrary, we have tended to rely on the citizen force. I do not think we can over-emphasize the important role the part-time soldier plays in the defence set-up of Canada. He has been the backbone of our fighting force in two wars and I cannot contemplate any future war in which he would not carry out a similar role.

"During our generation this country has spent ten years at war. We cannot forget the critical risks we have run by our previous lack of preparation. We realize, I think, that in any future crisis which may arise, this country and all countries will inevitably be involved. As Field Marshall Montgomery stated on the occasion of his receiving the honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws at McGill University: 'The teaching of history is that if you want peace, you must understand war. And you must be strong, for in the hands of strength lie the keys of peace and war.'"

### HOW CAN OUR ARMY BE RAISED

If, before the war, it was most difficult to raise an army of less than 60,000, under our system of voluntary enlistment, how then are we going to raise an Army of 205,000 men under the same system?

There are those who will say that Compulsory Military Training is the only way to raise our new Army. They will also say that equal service for all is the only fair method. However, Canadians do not take kindly to compulsion of any sort, particularly to Compulsory Military Training and especially during peace.

This writer believes that it is possible to raise our New Canadian Army without Compulsory Military Training, but only providing the following conditions are all exploited to the full:—

- (a) Extra Holidays with pay to attend camp.
- (b) A Reserve Force Citizens Committee organized in every Community to assist the Armed Services.
- (c) An acceptance by every Citizen of responsibility for National Defence.

### EXTRA HOLIDAYS WITH PAY TO ATTEND CAMP

Men who can never get away to annual training camp because their employers cannot allow them more than the normal two or three weeks holiday each year, are not of any great value to the Army.

It is unfair to the wives and families of these men to expect that they should give up their holidays to go to Camp, thus denying themselves the holiday they should all take with their families.

Employers of labour are certainly not of their own volition going to give extra holidays with pay to their employees, unless all Employers are required to do so by legislation. The Government of Alberta has set a very noteworthy example in this respect, by giving an extra week's holiday, making four weeks in all, to their civil servants who attend training camps.

Of course it cannot be expected that all employers of labour could let all their men go to camp at the same time. Nor is it possible for men in



some groups to get away in the summer. Therefore, it is essential that at least two camps be held in the summer and at least one in the winter. With the large number of suitable hatted camps in every Military District it is quite feasible and most desirable to have winter training camps.

### RESERVE FORCE CITIZENS COMMITTEES

In December, 1945, the idea of organizing Reserve Force Citizens Committees was instituted in M.D. 13. Leading citizens in many communities were quick to grasp the idea and eager to help. No persuasion was necessary as they seemed to be waiting to be asked to act on the various Committees.

By early February, 1946, when General F. F. Worthington, C.B., M.C., M.M., arrived in Edmonton to take over the newly formed Western Command, there were about fifteen Committees formed. He was told of the idea and in his usual enthusiastic and energetic style he gave it every backing. By May, when he saw the plan was working most satisfactorily in M.D. 13, he directed that it be introduced into M.D. 11, the other District in his Command.

The idea of the Reserve Force Citizens Committees came about because it was thought by the writer that as the Canadian Army belongs to the people of Canada, the people should:—

- (a) Show an interest in the Army.
- (b) Have some say in its Organization and Administration.
- (c) Accept certain responsibilities in maintaining it at a high state of efficiency.

It is felt that the Canadian Army is like a huge Corporation with every taxpayer a shareholder. Directors are elected to direct the policy and departmental managers appointed to administer the various branches.

With this in mind, the District Officer Commanding Military District 13 and his Senior Staff Officers have organized what have been called Reserve Force Citizens Committees in every community in M.D. 13 where Units of the Reserve Force are localized. In the larger centres of Calgary and Edmonton, Committees for each Unit have been formed. At the time of writing there are forty-nine Committees organized in M.D. 13.

When organizing the Committees the District Officer Commanding invariably addressed the general meeting himself. It is considered that this requirement is most important as Citizens are not at all impressed with the importance of the Committee if it is left to an N.C.O. or Junior Officer to address them. The District Officer Commanding outlined the functions and duties of the Committee, after speaking about the need for National Defence and the New Canadian Army. He leaves the detailed organization of the Committee to the Community but recommends that representatives be elected or appointed from every Club, Group, Organization, etc., in the Community.

The tasks of the Committee are as follows:—

1. Assist the DOC in the selection of a suitable CO.
2. Assist the CO in the selection of suitable Officers and N.C.O.'s.
3. Help raise the required numbers for the Unit or Sub-Unit.
4. Give the CO every assistance he might require to administer the Unit.



5. Advise the DOC on all matters pertaining to the Reserve Force with particular reference to the Unit or Sub-Unit in their locality.
6. Bring before the Community, at every opportunity, the urgent need for National Defence.
7. Ensure that the Community realize its responsibility for raising the required numbers for the Unit localized in their Community.
8. Ensure that the Community and particularly the School Board realize the advantages of Cadet Training in the Schools.
9. Help the School Boards organize Corps of the R. C. Army Cadets and to assist in the administration of these Corps.

A prodigious amount has been accomplished already by these Committees. It would require another long article to detail what has been done. Suffice it to say that the Reserve Force Unit is gradually becoming the centre of gravity in the Community and all activities are revolving around it. Although recruiting is only one of the many tasks of the Committee, it can be seen how much has been done in this respect when it is known that 30% of the total strength of the Reserve Force in M.D. 13 has been recruited, and this before a recruiting campaign has been launched.

There are those in other Districts who feel that the Citizens Committees might attempt to "run" the Unit and usurp from the Commanding Officer and from the Active Force Staffs some of the control of the Units. The Committees have been functioning in M.D. 13 for nearly a year and there has not been the slightest sign of this happening. In any case, if it does occur, it is very simple to rectify.

### CITIZENS RESPONSIBILITY FOR NATIONAL DEFENCE

If we are to maintain our Army at a high state of efficiency and up to strength, it is essential that every citizen, man and woman, accept responsibilities in this connection.

The men who have had Active Service in World War II must come back in large numbers. Their task has not yet been completed. At least 50% of our total requirements must be Officers and Men with operational service to assist in the reorganization of the Army and in the training of inexperienced young men who were in high school on V-E Day.

The older people must assist by giving their advice to their sons and young friends in order to help them to understand their duty to their country by service.

A full understanding of the need for National Defence can be given to all ages and groups of our population by speakers of senior military rank. They should tour their various Military Districts and speak at general meetings sponsored by Service Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, etc., etc. The Citizens Committees can help greatly in this respect.

### SUMMING UP

The Citizens Committees will be the main means of bringing the Army close to the people. These Committees should be enlarged and their scope of activity increased, and they should become an integral part of the Department of National Defence.

As stated above, this writer believes that Compulsory Military Training is not necessary, providing all the conditions mentioned above are introduced and exploited to the full.





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# Organization and Training Notes for Reserve Infantry Units

BY BRIG. J. C. JEFFERSON, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D.  
CMDR. 18 INF. BDE.



Brig. J. C. Jefferson, C.B.E.,  
D.S.O., M.C., E.D.  
Cmdr. 18 Inf. Bde.

In the war recently brought to a successful conclusion, physical fitness was a major factor in the winning of "infantry battles". Foot soldiers, whether transported to the battleground by watercraft, aircraft, armoured vehicles or by their own resources, enjoy the great privilege and honor to fight the enemy at close quarters man against man. This privilege and responsibility demand high qualifications:

Morale and Intelligence—the will to win.

Stamina—the ability to fight for longer periods of time than their opponents.

High degree of weapon training and fieldcraft—the ability to fight more skillfully and cunningly than their adversaries.

The most learned infantry soldier who has not the determination and physical stamina necessary to finish a fight once joined, is of very little use to himself or anyone else in a crisis. He must be regarded as a menace to the security of his fellow-soldiers.

How are we, of the Reserve Force Infantry, going to ensure that we encourage the right type of men to join our privileged and demanding Corps? Let us not lower our standards; on the contrary, we must insist on very high standards. We must gear our system to appeal to the best men available, not only our training system but our living system.

Since such a high degree of endurance is required, let us live the outdoor life as much as possible. Much of our training can be done outdoors. By intelligent planning more and, progressively, more of it can be learned in the field. It is in the field we will be required to show our superiority. We should prepare for that test by utilizing the terrain near at hand, for it is a challenge to our skill to be able to fight on many varying types of ground.

We must prepare ourselves to manoeuvre in varying weather, from severe cold to intense heat. Another challenge!

Does it not appear fundamental then that our educational program to encourage the men we need should include short talks on the following subjects:

- The responsibility of citizenship.
- Facts about our heritage.



- The vastness of our country.
- Our varying weather and terrain.
- Our responsibility to our neighbours.

Reasonable men do not expect something for nothing. It is surprising how many people are unreasonable when military matters are brought to their attention. Have we, ourselves, been negligent in the past? Have we been unreasonable? Possibly we have. We may not have attempted to place our views in a favourable light. We may not have thought it necessary to bring certain things which we believe necessary to the attention of those people we desire to cultivate. Have we failed to show why we believe reserve infantry are necessary?

Before we can expect to attract suitable personnel to our ranks, we must see to it that our views are understood, that our own plan is sound and our organization is efficient.

Junior leaders are urgently required. It is our task to search out the type of young manhood which will encourage the men we desire. The more thickly populated the area, the more important this choice becomes. Youth is extremely critical. Standards of living are rapidly rising. Many and varied attractions are becoming available to greater numbers of people. We are in competition with numerous other worthy organizations.

Each community, platoon or company, therefore, has its own particular problem. It should plan its activities to tie-in with other existing organizations in such a manner that co-operation is encouraged. A community spirit is demonstrated in many ways. Once it is aroused, the results are often surprising. One sees swimming pools built, recreation parks equipped, baseball and hockey teams sponsored.

In our Province many such communities are forming. The hamlets of today will be the villages of tomorrow. Our greatest opportunity is in these growing areas. Our organization can grow with the growing community.

It is true that many of our prospects and their younger brothers are very busy at the present time endeavouring to establish themselves. For that reason they are not immediately available. However, that is all the more reason we should contact them now. They will, very soon, be eager to join "some organization". That other organization, one of our competitors, is wide-awake to the present opportunity. We must present our case first. We believe in it; we, therefore, have the power of our convictions to champion our cause. To place first things first—what organization can our prospect mention that demands such high moral courage, clean-living, physical endurance and clear thinking? What organization offers a better opportunity to really appreciate and get to know our fellow men? And to the outdoor enthusiast and the true sportsman what a challenge!

To youth no task is too difficult. The more enduring the job the greater the zest to win. Can we grade our "Junior" training to take advantage of this admirable human trait.

Many different terms have been used in years past to imply superior performance. The word "Commando" excited the imagination. It may be prac-



licable to set up "proficiency ratings" which would entitle a youth to extra privileges or, what is more important, designate superiority by the wearing of a distinctive emblem or "mark", or entitle him to be designated by a special name. Other organizations have used this system to great advantage. If given a trial, it is important that it should be divorced entirely from the normal method of qualification for rank.

Another great appeal to youth is the opportunity to establish a reputation; for instance, additional badges or clasps for marksmanship in several classifications might be the answer. Insignia for varying degrees of fieldcraft may be an attraction. This craft demands perfect physical control, endurance, keen observation, a highly developed memory, excellent judgment and an analytical mind, combined with reporting skill.

The next step might be the classification of patrolling. Our Western patrolling was famous overseas. Why not capitalize on this in-born skill so highly developed among our Northwesterners. This training develops resourcefulness, confidence, keen judgment, dependability, and a co-operative spirit. It teaches the value of true discipline—self-discipline. What a wonderful opportunity we have for such training here in the Northwest, in any season, in any kind of weather, using varying equipment—skiis, snowshoes, pack ponies, sleighs, canoes. For a young leader with vision an amazing opportunity presents itself to render his community a real service in developing the local youth.

As our organization grows so will our reputation. It should then be possible to interest more of the city dwellers, whose present representation is in the minority. To this latter class Map Using should appeal. Properly conducted "on the ground" outdoor classes should be a means of gradually introducing them to outdoor life. Once the current frenzy of constructional activity has subsided, a great number of people will be looking to other fields for recreation.

It is important to organize for coming events. Gun Clubs will be revived. Many teams of practically every sport will be organized. We must issue operation instructions to our Rifle Committees and Sports Committees. If these committees are not functioning, new men with vision, enthusiasm and skill should be approached immediately to set the wheels in motion. This work can be done now. There is no point in delaying the matter.

The long winter evenings offer excellent opportunities to interview prospective marksmen, outdoor enthusiasts, and sportsmen to whom the prospect of playing in a team will appeal. All our activities should be designed to develop the team spirit. Once finally established and properly encouraged in all our doings, it will grow. The important thing is to get off to a good start by organizing now, choosing the people who are going to interview other people. Should some prospects not be immediately available for various reasons, diarize them for later in the year. Our appeal is logical. Intimate to them that they are needed, that their support is important, that an interest will be taken in their welfare and emphasize that we are interested in **them**.

The general welfare of our team mates should be our constant concern. This does not mean mollycoddling or unnecessary prying into private matters. It does mean, however, a genuine interest in the well-being of our fellow-men.



Certain functions should be organized within our sphere of activity to which other members of the community can be invited to attend. In this manner the right kind of publicity and community acceptance, plus co-operation can be obtained. Public Relations Officers are ready and willing to assist us. Liaison officers, detailed by Unit Comanders as their personal representatives to Brigade Headquarters, can assist the Command P.R.O. The L.O.'s should keep a diary of their unit activities. P.R.O.'s will, in turn, furnish valuable information regarding the local Press. Advantage should be taken of the co-operative attitude of country editors.

It is hoped that this article which, after all, is only "one man's viewpoint", may be of some assistance to those who will continue to enthusiastically encourage and assist Reserve Force Infantry Regiments. These Regiments were among those which so recently were hailed with respect and admiration throughout our vast Dominion.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE  
OFFICER COMMANDING  
22 ARMoured BRIGADE  
SIGNALS SECTION  
RCCS  
Prince of Wales Armoury

COMPLIMENTS OF  
OFFICER COMMANDING  
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# The Royal Canadian Navy and the Reserve

BY LIEUT. CMDR. RODNEY PIKE, R.C.N. (R), OFFICER COMMANDING  
H.M.C.S. "NONSUCH"



Lieut. Comdr. Rodney Pike, RCN(R),  
Officer Commanding HMSC  
"Nonsuch"

Our remoteness from the sea tends to make us forget its importance. In the modern age of air travel, and particularly air warfare, Canada can almost be looked upon as an Island. To the West the Pacific, to the North, the Arctic Ocean which modern strategists have compared to the Mediterranean of medieval days, to the East our old friend the stormy North Atlantic, and to the South the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Waterways stretch almost half way across the border of the United States.

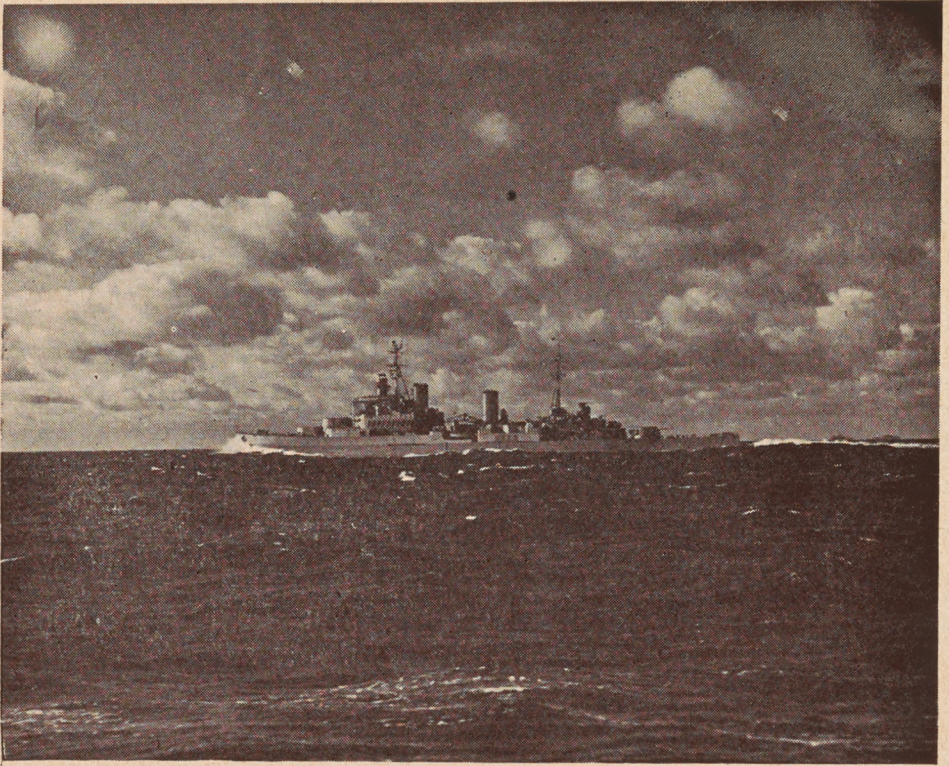
The prairie farmer may be 1,000 miles from tide water, but his prosperity depends upon the safe delivery of his grain to the world markets. Perhaps that awareness of the importance of the "Freedom of the Seas" and the inherent urge of lads of British descent to "go down to the sea in ships" is the reason why 11,000 young men from Alberta joined the Canadian Navy during the war. The fact that

Canadians who had never seen the sea made such good seamen was a constant source of wonderment to the more seasoned salts of the British Isles, and perhaps it is just as well that they did make good sailors because before the war Canada had practically no Navy.

When the Canadian Navy was first organized in 1910, no provision was made for a Reserve Force. However, just before the last war in 1913, some naval enthusiasts in Victoria, B.C., organized the Royal Navy Canadian Volunteer Reserve (R.N.C.V.R.). They started a great tradition. At the outbreak of the war, they manned two submarines. One of the original officers, now Captain Barney Johnstone (Retired) had never seen a submarine before, but he did such a good job of sailing it to England, he was granted his request of staying in submarines. The R.N.C.V.R.'s manned the Cruiser H.M.C.S. "AURORA" and H.M.S. "SHEFFIELD". Several hundred Canadians also served in different ships of the Royal Navy as members of the R.N.V.R. There was still, however, no official reserve attached to the R.C.N.

In 1922 when the possibility of another war seemed remote, and it was assumed that the much curtailed R.N. would look after the sea lanes, and a friendly neighbour to the south was relied upon to take care of the protection of our shores, the Canadian Government demanded such severe retrenchment on the part of the Armed Forces, that the Canadian Navy almost went out of





H.M.C.S. UGANDA rounding Cape Horn

existence. Captain Walter Hose, then Director of Naval Services, saved the day by proposing the establishment of reserve forces. The name, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve, was suggested by Admiral Jellicoe as more indicative of the existence of Canadian naval forces as separate entities from the Royal Navy.

As a result of these proposals, the R.C.N.V.R., open generally to "shore going" civilians, and the R.C.N.R. whose profession was the sea, were established in 1923, and continued in operation up to and throughout World War II. In 1937 when it became obvious that Japan intended to join the side of the Axis, and because of the numerous Japanese on Canada's West Coast, the Fishermen's Reserve was organized.

On August 31st, 1939, the strength of the Canadian naval force was 352 officers and 3,446 men, made up as follows:

	Officers	Men
R.C.N. (Permanent Force) .....	131	1,643
R.C.N.R. ....	60	196
Fishermen's Reserve .....	40	154
R.C.N.V.R. ....	115	1,453

The Fleet consisted of 15 Vessels, 6 Destroyers, 4 small Minesweepers, a Sailing Yacht and even smaller vessels including a Cabin Cruiser called the



"Skidegate". The latter was listed in Janes Fighting Ships, with the rest of the Canadian Navy.

The Divisional Headquarters across Canada were, in most part, in out of the way corners in Army Barracks. In Edmonton we had two rooms in the corner of the Prince of Wales Armouries, and the officers were invited to use the garrison mess. I can remember there was the odd remark as to "What the Navy was doing ashore."

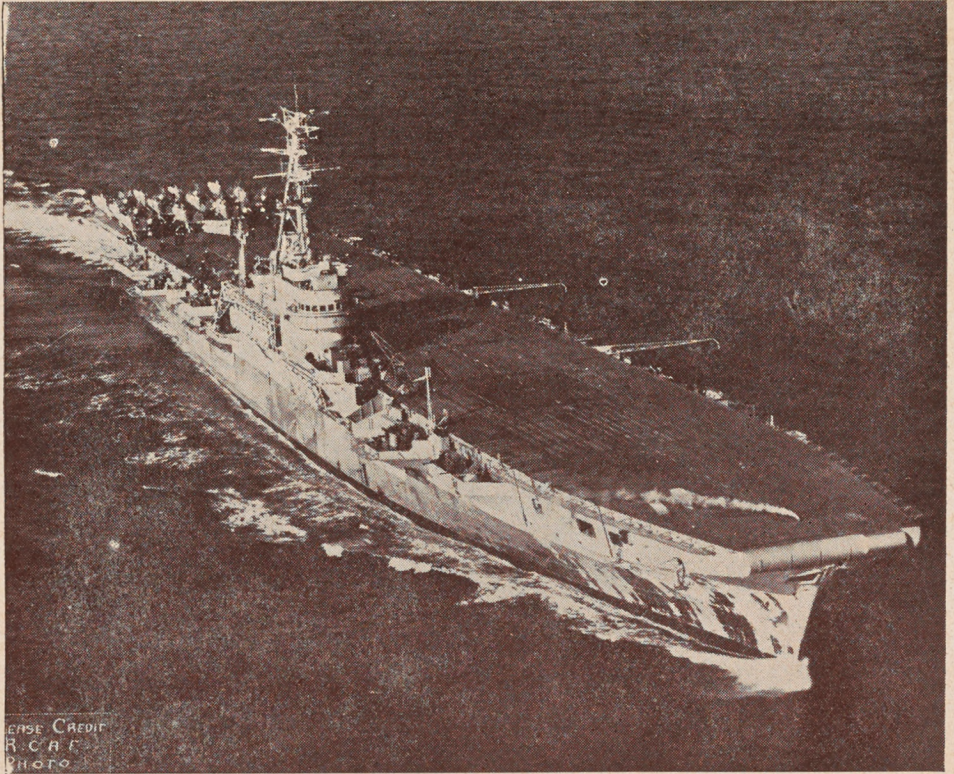
Fortunately, plenty of opportunity was given for training at sea, and although there were only six destroyers, they were modern and fairly efficient. The R.C.N. and the pre-war R.C.N.V.R. and R.C.N.R. provided the foundation on which to build.

In World War II, after the fall of France and the commencement of unrestricted U Boat warfare in the North Atlantic, there was a great shortage of escort vessels. The 50 old 4-stackers borrowed from the United States were thinly spread with the few destroyers that the R.N. could spare. Canadian shipyards were called upon to turn out Corvettes. Their achievement was something short of miraculous, and the Canadian Navy was called upon to recruit and train the officers and men to man the steady stream of Corvettes



Standing on the bridge of H.M.C.S. "ALGONQUIN", Lieut. General H. D. G. Crerar, C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. in C., First Canadian Army surveys the scene as the Canadian destroyer carries his staff to France. Beside him is the commanding officer of "ALGONQUIN", Lieut. Cdr. D. W. Piers, D.S.C., R.C.N., of Halifax.—R.C.N. Photo by Lieut. H. Nott, R.C.N.V.R.





Pictured above, just a few miles outside of Halifax harbour, is the biggest ship of the Royal Canadian Navy, the 18,000 ton aircraft carrier "Warrior". With a complement of more than 1,200 officers and ratings, and under the command of Captain Frank L. Houghton, C.B.E., the new vessel will be permanently based at Halifax. She is shown here, heading into the wind, as her aircraft prepare to take off to fly in formation over the city.—(R.C.A.F. Photo).

that were turned out. By the end of the war, the total complement had reached 100,000.

During the latter years of the war, all the close escorting of Mercantile Convoys from America to U.K. was taken over by the R.C.N., and a Canadian Admiral was placed in charge of the Western side of the North Atlantic. He and Admiral Horton controlled the North Atlantic. Also a large percentage of the Frigates on anti-U-boat striking forces and support forces were Canadian.

There was a considerable number of Canadian seamen and Canadian ships in landing operations, and the Canadian destroyers managed to get in on many of the spirited high speed fleet actions. Also many other Canadians served in ships and establishments of the Royal Navy.

Hunting submarines "not without relish" as Churchill said, was the chief occupation of the R.C.N. After the summer of 1943, as a result of the great air/sea offensive that was carved out in the North Atlantic, the U Boat situation eased considerably and the R.C.N. started to think in terms of a Navy with larger fleet units. Arrangements were made to man escort carriers, and two cruisers in process of construction, were taken over from the R.N. The



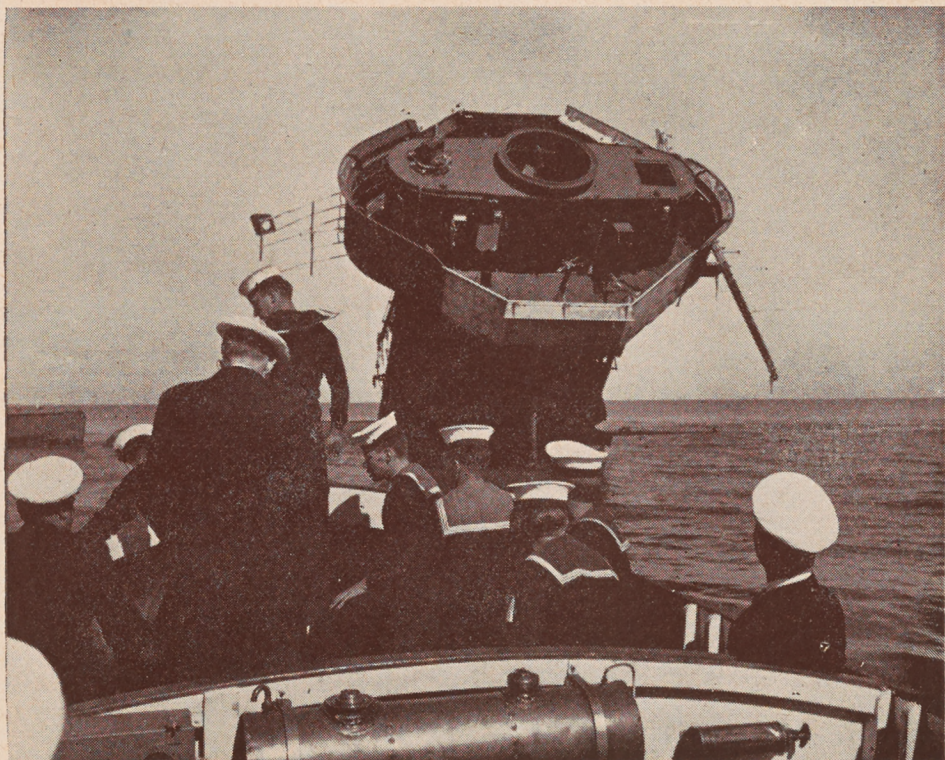
"UGANDA" was commissioned in time to see action in the Pacific, and the "ONTARIO" finished working up just after V-J Day.

The escort carriers were returned to the R.N. and have been replaced by two 18,000 ton light fleet carriers, each carrying 30 aircraft—H.M.C.S. "MAGNIFICENT" is still under construction in the United Kingdom and H.M.C.S. "WARRIOR" has just returned from an extended training cruise.

The cruisers displacing 10,000 tons, with more than 80,000 horse power, are as modern as any cruisers of their type afloat.

Besides the above are a goodly number of Tribal and Fleet class destroyers, Frigates and Algerine minesweepers.

Canada must have a Navy, not only to do her share in protecting the trade routes, but the Navy works hand in hand with the Consular Service in



Souvenir hunters on board H.M.C.S. "UGANDA" got some rare pieces when the Canadian cruiser visited Montevideo, Uruguay, during her training and goodwill cruise around South America. Just outside Montevideo harbour is the wreck of the German Pocket Battleship, "ADMIRAL GRAF SPEE". Part of it can still be seen above the water as she sits in the mud of the bay. A party from "UGANDA" visited the wreck and climbed all over the control tower which is riddled with holes, both from the British ships which engaged her and from her own charges which preceded the scuttling in December 1939. Here the motor cutter from "UGANDA" is seen approaching the remains of the control tower which rises some thirty feet out of the water at a list to starboard of about 30 degrees. Just above the waterline and below the control deck can be seen an 8-foot hole which was where one of the British shells hit her.

—R.C.N. Photo.





H.M.C.S. "Crescent" on Patrol in the North Atlantic

selling our goods and developing good will in foreign countries. Mr. Douglas Abbott, the Minister of National Defence, has aptly expressed the need for a Navy.

"Merchant ships with their cargos must still sail the seven seas in all weather, for their journeyings are the life lines of our trade in peace as well as in war. Fighting sailors must be trained and fighting ships must be manned as a normal measure of prudence, at least until the affairs of the world become more settled."

At date of writing the present complement calls for a permanent force of 10,000 and a reserve of 18,000—with a further source of 15,000 Sea Cadets and several hundred prospective officer candidates in the University Naval Training Divisions across Canada.

The permanent force draws recruits from all the Provinces, but strangely enough, some of the inland Provinces are enlisting a higher percentage than the Provinces on the Sea. Reserve Divisions have been established in all the main centres.

In Alberta there is a Division at Calgary, and one at Edmonton—H.M.C.S. "NONSUCH" at Edmonton has a complement of 600, including 48 officers and a Naval Air Arm Reserve of 70 with 12 officers. Modern Radar, Asdic, Gunnery and Communication equipment is being installed. Two weeks'



sea time is required each year and reserves have the option of volunteering for extra sea time. The opportunity of going on a cruise is perhaps one of the chief incentives for a young lad to join the Navy. Years ago Sir Richard Grenville said:

"I like the sea and the sea life and the company at sea as well as any that I ever lived withal. The place is good and healthful to a willing mind."

The same still holds true today, and a young man "with a willing mind" and a good physique, whether he devote his full career or a few weeks a year, should find much to his liking in the Navy.

Modern science has changed modern Naval Warfare, even more so than in the words of Captain Hopwood, Royal Navy:

"Though the seaplane soaring upwards may betray the submarine,  
To the oil fed super-Dreadnought steaming nervously between,  
In pursuance of her mission she'll be well advised to shun,  
An interfering Cruiser with the latest seaplane gun.  
Thus does Science rule the revels that our Fathers used to know."

The "seaplane gun" of the future will probably be a radio controlled rocket with an atomic head. Although morale and the fighting spirit of the ships is still as important as in Nelson's day—the sailor of today requires a high educational standard.

The approach of the enemy is detected on the radar scan long before it comes into the range of vision of the look-out. Naval guns are laid and trained mechanically only when other methods break down—visual signalling is used mostly for drill purposes and the new high speed, high pressure turbines require more scientific know-how, than the old up and down type.

Naval Training, irrespective of its importance to the Country, is of benefit to any young lad. There is a generation who were just not quite old enough to join up in the war, but are old enough to have the same boundless energy and spirit of adventure as their older brothers. This energy is at times misdirected, and needs to be put into the proper channels. A young man can find much in a Service that still thinks in terms of the spirit of Nelson, such things as courage and devotion to duty, of setting aside one's own wants in order to help others, and of getting on with the job are just as important on land as at sea.

In December, 1945, the R.C.N.V.R. and R.C.N.R. went out of existence, and commencing January 1st, 1946, the Royal Canadian Navy (Reserve) came into being and straight gold stripes became standard for officers' uniforms, whether permanent force or reserve.

The R.C.N.V.R.'s accounted for 90% of the total strength, and if the straight stripe is the mark of a Seaman, many a retired officer is well qualified to change his stripes. The old Reserve is no more, but in the hearts of those who served in the Corvettes, the "Wavy Navy" will still roll along.

It was quite an achievement to increase from 3,800 to 100,000, but it takes longer to train men today. In the words of Mr. Abbott:

"It is a normal measure of prudence to keep the permanent force and the reserve up to full strength."



## **The 92nd Field Battery**

### **Royal Canadian Artillery**

The 92nd Field Battery, one of the well-known Edmonton, Non-Permanent Units was ordered to mobilize on the 1st of September, 1939. The selection of Officers and recruiting was immediately proceeded with and long before the "21-day" period as set by National Defence Headquarters was up to full strength, the original officers of the Battery being: Major D. J. Snell, Capt. J. W. Dodds, Lieuts. G. P. Hartling, C. H. Humber, J. H. Mooney, R. F. Walker, J. M. Cameron, and C. R. Compston.

After a short stay in the new huts constructed at the Prince of Wales Armoury, the Battery entrained on the 5th of December, 1939, to commence the move to Eastern Canada, being the first Edmonton unit to proceed on the way overseas.

On the journey East this Battery joined up with other Batteries from Moose Jaw and Winnipeg to later become the 3rd Canadian Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, and form part of the 1st Canadian Division. The original Commanding Officer of the Regiment being Lt.-Col. (later Brig.) R. A. Wyman, of Edmonton.

Following an advance party which left Canada on the 22nd of November, 1939, in charge of Lt. Mooney, the Battery embarked at that "well-known Eastern Canadian port" and set sail for England, arriving at Aldershot on the 19th of December, 1939.

The Battery and other units of the Regiment proceeded to draw all necessary equipment (when such could be got) and with the other units of the 1st Division took part in the defense of Britain, and during the dark days of May and June, 1940, made ready to go to France, but the sudden fall of that country called a halt to such a move.

The balance of the year 1940 and throughout the years 1941, 1942 and early 1943 the Battery took part in many of the training exercises being carried out in England, including "BUMPER," "THE BEAVERS," "TIGER" and numerous goes at "Combined Ops." In addition to these exercises periodical trips to the Alfriston, Larkhill and Sennybridge ranges were made where firing practices were indulged in just to keep the gunners' "eye-in," as it would seem.

After a spring of very strenuous exercises in combined operations the Battery with its other parts of the Regiment embarked in June, 1943, from a port in the North of Scotland for a then unknown destination. During the journey they had a taste of what "Jerry" could do, as one evening just before sundown while in convoy in the Mediterranean a ship carrying the bulk of the personnel and equipment was torpedoed and sunk with the result the Battery had to operate as a skeleton unit for a few days after arriving on the beaches of PADINO in Sicily, which took place on the morning of the 10th July, 1943.

The first week after the landing little opposition was encountered, with the result the Battery would no sooner be deployed when it was learned



that our Infantry had pushed the enemy back and he was out of range. After this, however, the enemy chose to show some resistance with the result the first barrage was ordered for the evening of the 21st July to assist our forces to gain a foothold in the town of LEONFORTE. From this point on until the end of the Sicilian campaign it was a matter of fighting for every mile of ground gained. The more important places taken during this period being AGIRA, REGALBUTO and the town of ADERNO, which was taken on the 6th of August. Following the end of the Sicilian campaign the Battery moved into a rest area in the vicinity of ADERNO, where the time was spent in maintenance, general cleaning up and recreational training.

On the 1st of September the Battery (once again fully equipped and up to strength) moved to a concentration area on the north-west coast of Sicily where they embarked on L.S.T.'s and proceeded to REGGIO on the southern tip of Italy, making their second adventure in combined operations in two months. As in Sicily the opposition was not great, so the ensuing four weeks were spent in pursuing the enemy until he decided to make a stand at VINCHINTERA and then the guns of the Battery were given many opportunities to send many rounds "up the spout" to be greeted with much concern by "Jerry" at the other end.

At this time the winter of 1943-44 was setting in, and the mud was at times almost impassable, but by the end of November, after a lot of heavy fighting, the MORO river had been crossed and the towns of San Vito and San Leonardo had been taken; the battle for ORTONA then commenced and only after a long and hard battle which cost considerable casualties the town was finally won on the night of 27th-28th of December, 1943. During this battle the 92nd Battery was continually on the job firing thousands of rounds in support and in defence of the forward troops. After the fall of ORTONA the weather and mud was so bad it was impossible to continue the operations until the spring, and all units of the Canadian Division moved to the west of Italy and there took part in the breaking of the Hitler and Gustav lines. The 92nd Battery again was in the thick of the actions making many moves and taking part in many fire plans in support of the breaking of these two lines. After the fall of Rome the Battery again went out to a rest area, here the usual job of vehicle and gun maintenance was indulged in, as well as the odd spot of leave for the personnel.

Towards the end of July again saw the Units on the move, this time up to the vicinity of FLORENCE, but on arriving all units were immediately switched to the east coast of Italy to commence breaking of the Adriatic end of the Gothic line; many hard battles were fought in the advance up the Adriatic Coast, the main shows being the Metauro river, the Foglia river, Cattolico, Riccione, Fortunata Ridge, Rimini, the Rubicon river, the Uso River, the Savio River, the Lamone River, Bagnacavello, and the Senio river. It was on this line the 1st Canadian Corps dug in for the winter of 1944-45. During all these operations the 92nd Battery again took its part, sharing with the other batteries of the 3rd Field Regiment and other Artillery units the job of giving continuous support to the Infantry, both in attack and defence.

In the middle of February, 1945, after now having spent almost two winters in Italy the Units comprising the 1st Canadian Corps were ordered to move to the N.W. European theatre of operations. The 92nd Battery



with the other units gleefully pulled out of action and began the long trek down Italy on their way to France, Belgium and Holland. Embarkation was carried out at Leghorn on the western side, and the Battery disembarked at Marseilles on the 9th-10th of March. The move to the north now began, the route being up through the Rhone valley, halts being made at Macon, Dijon, Cambrai and Baon, where the Divisional Artillery moved into concentration.

The first week in April of 1945 saw the Battery in action again, this time being the first in N. W. Europe) in the area Deventer-Zutphen. Subsequent battles in which the Battery took part were the crossing of the IJssel, Voorthuizen, Swartbroeck, until the 5 of May when the surrender of the German forces in Holland took place.

At long last that great day had arrived, after many months of hard training, many months of hard fighting, the enemy had at last been forced to throw down his arms and surrender; it was a great day for all ranks of the 92nd Battery.

Following the surrender of the German forces, detachments of the Battery were utilized in the rounding up of roving bands of enemy troops, and stripping them of all arms and equipment, and the "take" that followed was considerable, and quite often amusing.

A sad day soon befell the Battery however, that was when they, too, had to part with their own guns and vehicles, many a long face could be noted as the guns which they had labored over so many hours were hauled away, "the Colors of the Regiment" had been taken from them, but a brighter note soon prevailed as the Battery was moved to the UTRECHT area where all personnel were to be grouped for repatriation drafts. The 92nd Battery had now ceased to be a fighting unit, after travelling thousands of miles, over various types of roads, endless changes of terrain, fought many battles and had fired many thousands of rounds, they had done well their job, but not without cost. As the result of "Jerry's return mail" there were many casualties, nine of the original personnel of the Battery being killed and many wounded.

The 92nd Battery, as later known, returned to Edmonton, arriving on the 18th of October, 1945, almost 6 years from the time it had left, bringing with it a good number of the original members, also a most prized possession, a Plaque presented to the Battery by the Loyal Edmonton Regiment, a tribute to the very fine support that had been given by the Battery to this Regiment throughout their many engagements.

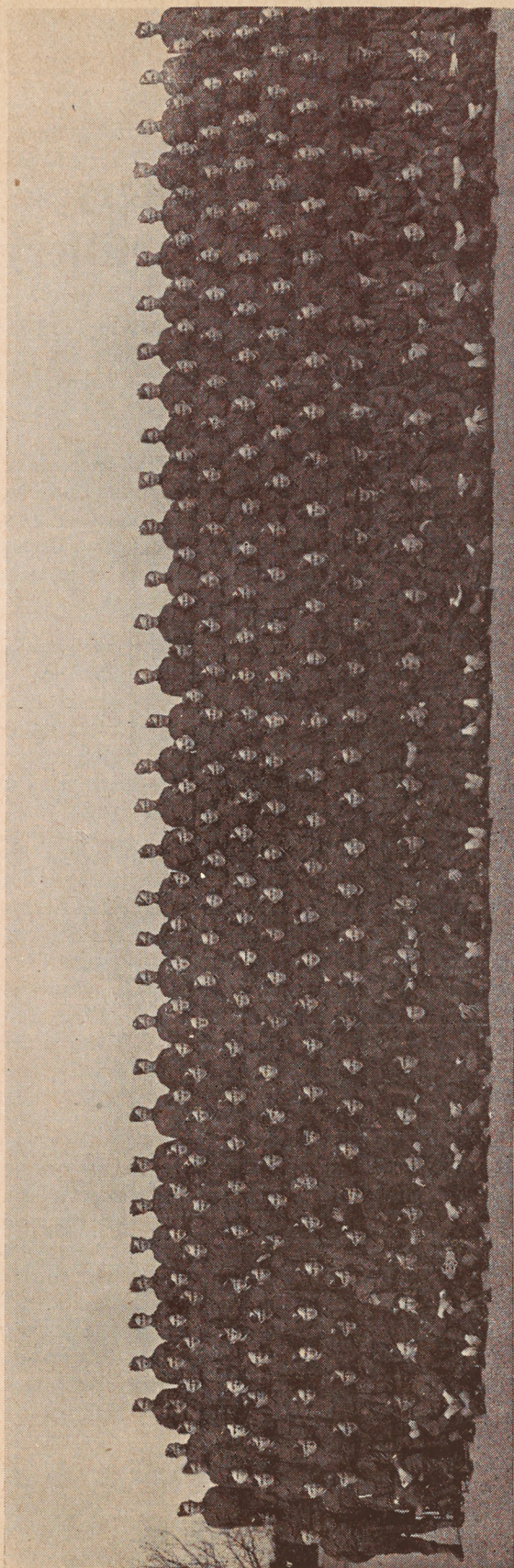
The Unit is perpetuated in the Post-War Reserve Army as the 92nd Battery, 20th H.A.A. Regiment, R.C.A.

Compliments of the  
LOYAL EDMONTON  
REGIMENT

(49th Bn. CEF)  
Prince of Wales Armoury  
Lt.-Col. W. T. Cromb, DSO, ED.

HELP BOOST  
MEMBERSHIP  
IN THE  
INSTITUTE AND  
THE MESS





Army Field Regiment, Canadian Active Service Force, England, 1940



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE

## **61st Field Battery**

### **Royal Canadian Artillery**

The battery was one of the units of the pre-War Non-Permanent Active Militia, and was part of the former 20th Field Brigade R.C.A. The 20th Field Brigade was not mobilized as a unit at the outbreak of the war. The mobilization plan for the artillery from the four western provinces was to abandon the old brigade formations and to form a number of regiments on a new organization, each with four batteries, one from each of the four provinces. In accordance with this plan the old artillery brigades were abandoned completely, and a number of independent batteries were mobilized, the first mobilization order calling for sufficient to create the field artillery required for two divisions and a group of corps artillery. Of the 20th Field Brigade, two batteries were mobilized, the 61st and the 92nd.

The instructions to mobilize were received from Headquarters Military District No. 13 by telegram about noon on Friday, September 1, 1939. The instructions were transmitted to the non-permanent battery commander, Major F. A. Ford. As in the case of all units of the first draft, full mobilization instructions had been received in advance, and the telegraphic instructions were the authority to the officer concerned to proceed to recruit the unit to war establishment.

Major Ford immediately summoned all officers to a conference that afternoon, and plans were laid for intense recruiting to commence immediately war was declared. A full parade of the battery was also held on the Saturday morning and about 80% of the non-permanent personnel signified their intention of enlisting in the active force for service overseas. Following that, the declaration of war came on the Sunday; medical boards were appointed and recruiting to war strength commenced promptly on Monday, September 4th. Within the next ten days the battery reached its full war establishment of approximately 175 all ranks. Major Ford was duly appointed in orders as the active force battery commander.

The battery was quartered at the Prince of Wales Armoury together with all other units mobilized for the first draft, and training was carried on for the next few months in the armoury and in the city. Eventually orders arrived to the effect that the battery would proceed overseas with the first contingent, taking the place of another battery, that was not ready to proceed. The warning for the movement was received about the middle of December, just about the time that the first Edmonton units, including the Edmonton Regiment and the 92nd Field Battery, were actually moving from the city. Instructions were received to give all ranks embarkation leave and to be ready to leave Edmonton early in January, 1940. All preparations were completed, leaves were granted and the battery stood ready to move by the middle of January. At last the final instructions arrived and the battery moved from Edmonton via the Canadian National Railways about noon on Wednesday, January 24, 1940. Its overseas complement was six officers and 149 other ranks.



The unit proceeded to the embarkation point, Halifax, and immediately on arriving marched aboard its transport, the "Monarch of Bermuda", a luxury liner which had been used for some years for the holiday trade between New York and Bermuda. At that time all transports had not been converted from their peace-time fittings and the troops travelled across the Atlantic in real peace-time luxury, rather different from travel in later years in the bare and crowded conditions of the converted troop ships.

On boarding the transport the battery at once came under its new regimental organization, the 8th Army Field Regiment R.C.A., one of the corps field regiments. In accordance with the mobilization plan the new regiment was composed of four batteries, the 61st from Edmonton, Alberta, the 71st from Regina, Saskatchewan, the 109th from Brandon, Manitoba, and the 111th from Trail, B.C. The first regimental commander was Lieutenant Colonel F. W. Wootton of Regina, Saskatchewan, a former non-permanent brigade commander.

The regiment disembarked at Greenock, Scotland and immediately proceeded by rail to Borden, Hants., a barrack town about 25 miles south of Aldershot. There the regiment was quartered in Louisburg barracks, built many years ago but still in good condition. The regiment immediately settled down to intensive training preparatory to proceeding to the Continent.

During the next few months the regiment received a good portion of its war equipment, and manoeuvres were carried out in the Borden-Aldershot area, and finally the regiment proceeded to its first firing practice camp at Okehampton, in Devonshire. This was also the regiment's final checkover to see whether it was ready to go into action, and hopes ran high that we would shortly proceed to the Continent.

While the regiment was at Okehampton, the German attack on the Maginot line began and the strenuous days of the battle of France took place, resulting in the withdrawal of the French army, and the consequent withdrawal of the British Expeditionary Force. Before the training period was over, the regiment was warned to stand by to proceed to France, and immediately training camp was finished, the regiment was rushed back to Borden to be fully equipped to proceed to France within a few days. Unhappily, as we were drawing our equipment the Germans pressed home their victory and the terrible days of the evacuation of the B.E.F. began. Finally the instructions to proceed to France were cancelled, and along with the 1st Canadian Division the regiment proceeded to the Northampton area as part of the defensive force in the event of an invasion. After about two weeks stay at Northampton, instructions were received that there was another possibility that the regiment would proceed to France and we were hurriedly moved back to the Aldershot area. However, in the meantime the German victory was complete, and the B.E.F. had to be withdrawn from the Continent with the result that the regiment proceeded to the Oxford area along with the 1st Division.

From that time on the possibility of getting out of England seemed remote, and the 8th Army Field Regiment settled down in the role of the defence of the south coast of England. For the next three years its activities were training and manoeuvres which became so familiar to all ranks who served in England during that period.



During 1943 certain changes in the organization of the artillery took place, and the regiment ceased to come directly under the C.C.R.A. 1st Canadian Corps and became part of the 1st Canadian Army Group R.C.A.; at that time the two army groups consisted partly of medium and partly of field artillery. Later in the same year the army groups themselves were reorganized and were converted to medium artillery only. At first the plan was to convert the 8th Army Field Regiment to a medium regiment, but subsequently this was changed and the regiment was converted into a self-propelled field regiment, and became one of the regiments of the 5th Canadian Armoured Division. The regiment then became known as the 8th Field Regiment (S.P.) R.C.A., and was equipped with the 25 pounder gun mounted on the Sherman Tank chassis.

In November, 1943, the battery proceeded to Italy with the 5th Armoured Division and disembarked in Sicily with the 1st Canadian Corps. For the next two months training continued preparatory to going into action on the mainland under the command of the British 8th Army. Toward the end of January, 1944, the 5th Division proceeded to the mainland and went into action on the Arielli winter line, just west of Ortona, about the 1st week of February. The battery took part in the winter operations of 1944, being in and out of the line on a number of occasions relieving British formations of the 8th Army.

The battery took part in the attack which commenced on May 11, 1944, under the command of a British corps. Later on May 23rd the 8th Field reverted back to the 5th Division and took part with the Division in the attack on the Hitler Line which began at dawn that date. The 5th Division was then engaged steadily for the following week, after which the Canadian corps was taken out of the line for a lengthy rest. The corps was back in action again to the north of Rome on the Adriatic side, in September and October, and the battery was engaged almost continuously throughout that period.

Early in 1945 the War Office decided to transfer the Canadian Corps to France to become part of a Canadian Army. The transfer of the troops was made during February, 1945, the whole corps disembarking in the south of France and travelling by road across France to join the Canadian Army. From then on until the end of hostilities in May, the battery was engaged in the pursuit of the Germans across France, and through Belgium and Holland, and finally wound up with the 5th Division in the Northern part of Holland. There was very little artillery activity during this period but the battery took part in the whole of the pursuit of the retreating German Army.

A few months after the end of hostilities the 8th Field Regiment was broken up and its component parts were posted to drafts returning to Alberta. The battery arrived home as a unit under the temporary command of Major W. R. Gilchrist, in November, 1945, and was immediately demobilized.

The battery will be perpetuated in the reserve army by the 61st Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery which is now part of the 20th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, with Headquarters at Edmonton.

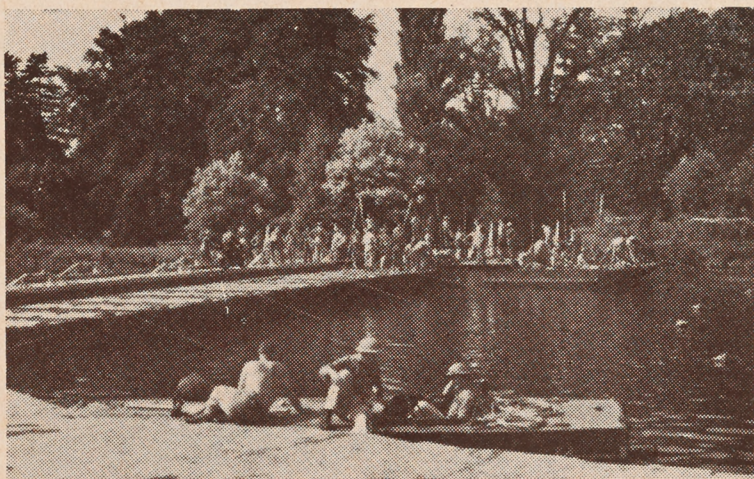


## 9th Army Troops Company, R.C.E.

The 9th Army Troops Company, R.C.E., was organized on the 15th December, 1936, Major A. E. Cameron was appointed to command a nucleus of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers was soon formed. The succeeding Officers commanding before the war were Major F. K. Beach, 1st May, 1937, and Major and Lieut-Col. P. L. Debney, 15th March, 1939.

The Company made steady progress with training under the limited training establishments then permitted, and at the summer camp at Dundern in 1939 were awarded the Henshaw Cup for speed and efficiency in Bridging and Rafting. Folding Boat Equipment and the Small Box Girder were then available for training.

It was on the 1st September, 1939, that this Unit was ordered to mobilize as part of the Canadian Active Service Force and steps were immediately taken to recruit to full strength. Personnel were placed on subsistence until accom-



Pontoon Bridge, River Thames at Pangbourne

modation was provided by construction of hutments at the Prince of Wales Armoury. Construction was sufficiently advanced for the Unit to move in a week later.

During the winter of 1939-40 a strenuous programme of individual training was carried out and with the cooperation of the University, Edmonton Technical School and some private corporations trade training and qualification was rounded out.

Anxiety to be on their way soon became apparent and there were many rumours of a move. However in April, 1940, the Unit entrained for Toronto and was given a great send off by the citizens of Edmonton. Disappointment was great when the Company officially lost its identity and was absorbed into the 1st Battalion R.C.E., forming Headquarters and "A" companies under the command of Major P. L. Debney and Major A. L. Tregillus, respectively, but





Floating Bailey Bridge, Spanning the Rhine at Emmerich

the esprit de corps was so high that unofficially the 9th Army Troops Company never has lost its identity.

The 1st Battalion, R.C.E., embarked for England at Halifax on the "Duchess of Bedford" in June, 1940, and settled down to further training at Aldershot. Training was interrupted by many construction and repair jobs, but a considerable amount of collective training and toughening was carried out. During which many of the original 9th Army Troops personnel were selected for promotion and specialist jobs and became spread throughout the Units of the Corps, and saw service in Gibraltar, North Africa, Sicily, Italy and throughout the campaign in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

Before "D" Day the 1st Battalion, R.C.E., was reorganized into 2nd Army Group, R.C.E., as the 32nd, 33rd and 34th Field Companies and the 11th Field Park Company, of which the 33rd Field Company was selected to perpetuate the 9th Army Troops Company.

In July, 1944, the 33rd Field Company landed in Normandy under the command of Major McDougall. Three other officers were in command in succession, Major "Dusty" Miller, Major Durnin and Capt. LaSalle. The latter officer brought the Company back to Edmonton.

First assignments for the 33rd Field Company in the Caen Falaise Sector in Normandy were mine clearing, route maintenance, road repair and bridging. For the crossing of the Seine the Company was occupied in bridging at Elboeuf and later moved to Grave and Nijmegen for more bridging.

Most of the winter was spent at Uden in Holland and construction of two bridges across the Rhine at Emmerich followed. One of these was a class 40 bridge 1,460 feet long. The unit then made an early move into the Reichswald Forest.

Two high level bridges were constructed at Goar followed by a move to Haselunne in Germany where the main assignment was improving communications.

The Company moved back into Holland on the 21st June, 1945, to commence repatriation and finally crossed the Atlantic on the "New Amster-



dam" with other Units of the 1st Division. The "New Amsterdam" docked in Halifax on 29 September and the troops were welcomed by The Hon. Bruce Claxton and Mrs. Claxton on behalf of the Government, Maj.-Gen. A. E. Walford, Adjutant General, and other senior army officers.

As their special train crossed Canada the welcomes at various centres made quite an impression on the troops, but the train could not travel fast enough to suit them.

On arrival at the Canadian National Station in Edmonton on the morning of Thursday, 4th October, 1945, the first thirty minutes was set aside for re-union with immediate relatives and then the Unit formed up for a route march south on 101st Street, east on Jasper Avenue, through the market square and back to the station on 100th Street. The streets were decorated and there was a goodly turn out of private citizens. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, the Hon. J. C. Bowen, took the salute on 101st Street at 102nd Avenue as the Unit marched past to their Regimental March "Wings." It was the first time many of the men had heard it since "D" Day and it was noticeable how they responded and stuck out their chests a little further.

Short addresses of welcome were given at the Market Square by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. E. C. Manning, Premier of the Province of Alberta, and His Worship Mayor John W. Fry of Edmonton. The march was then completed to the Station and there, with the final "Dismiss," the 33rd Field Company, R.C.E. (Active) passed into history and the personnel became individuals "on leave" and proceeded under their own steam to their homes in Alberta and British Columbia.

Five originals returned to Edmonton with the Unit, C.S.M. A. M. (Andy) Hall, C.S.M. R. (Bob) Allen, C.S.M. A. T. (Bud) Ward, Sgt. Joe Lamoreux and Spr. N. Jackson.

In the post-war Reserve Army the 9th Army Troops Company will be perpetuated by the 25th Field Company, R.C.E.

The 9th Army Troops Company, Royal Canadian Engineers during the war of 1939-1945 certainly lived up to their Regimental Motto, "Ubique."



Floating Bailey Bridge at Ijssel River, Zutphen



## BRIEF HISTORY OF

**The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (49th)**

PREPARED FOR THE EDMONTON MILITARY INSTITUTE JOURNAL

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment, formerly styled The Edmonton Regiment (49th Bn. C.E.F.) is justly proud of its record in World War I and World War II. The old "Forty-Niners" recall famous actions of 1914-1918 with names like Mount Sorrel, Somme, 1916, Flers-Courcelette, Vimy, Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens, Scarfe, 1918, the Hindenburg Line and the Pursuit to Mons. The new "Forty-Niners" talk of Revisoto and the Salso Valley in Sicily, of "Vino Ridge", the fierce street-fighting of Ortona in Italy; of an Italian winter in the cold and rain along the Arielli River; of the attacks on the Hitler and Gothic lines, the dykes of the Italian rivers, the flat ground of the Lombardy Plains cut through with one canal after another and later the crossing of the Ijssel River in Holland after the Battalion joined the Canadian Army in Europe. The same spirit of determination and rugged fighting efficiency dominated the new "Forty-Niners" as it did their fathers before them.

The City of Edmonton organized some thirteen battalions of infantry in World War I and early in 1915 the 49th Bn. C.E.F. was recruited by Lt.-Col. W. A. Griesbach (later Maj.-Gen. C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., now deceased) and sent overseas in the same year. It was recruited mainly from the Edmonton



Loyal Edmonton Regiment inspection by H.M. King George VI prior to presentation of colours July 1, 1941.



and Peace River districts. After a distinguished record it returned with flying colors to Edmonton and was demobilized in 1919.

Shortly after there came into being the N.P.A.M. unit known as The Edmonton Regt. (49th Bn. C.E.F.) organized to perpetuate not only the 49th Bn. but also the 51st and 63rd Bns. from which large numbers of reinforcements were drawn in the first Great War. Commanded successively by Lt.-Cols. R. H. Palmer, D.S.O., W. Howland, G. W. McLeod, D.S.O., A. H. Elliott, Louis Scott, D.C.M., L. C. Harris, V.D. (who initiated and brought to fruition Camp Harris at Winterburn), P. L. Debney, M.M. and W. G. Stillman, E.D., the Unit carried on training at the Prince of Wales Armouries and at the annual training Camp at Sarcee during the years between the two Great Wars. In keeping with territorial traditions alliances were effected with The Loyal Regiment (North Lancs.) and through that Regiment with The Kimberley Regiment (South Africa) and The Wide Bay Regiment (Australia)—an inter-Empire alliance.

A new regimental badge was authorized during the first Great War. It had the vanes of a windmill pivoting on a coyote's head and a scroll beneath with the words "Edmonton Regiment" inscribed. Between the vanes, at the top is the Crown with "Canada" underneath; with the numeral "49" in the lower space and Maple Leaves in the right and left spaces to honor the 51st and 63rd Bns. The windmill perpetuates the memory of Flanders and the coyote's head the Prairies, and, incidentally the Regiment's first mascot—a coyote pup, which travelled overseas with the unit and was subsequently left in the London Zoo.

Regimental colours were also approved. French grey for the 3rd Division, green for the 7th Brigade with a thin black stripe carried by The Loyal Regiment commemorating the death of Wolfe with whom The Loyals fought at Quebec.

"Bonnie Dundee" was early selected for the Regimental march and has been retained throughout the Regiment's history.

At the outbreak of World War II, the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. W. G. Stillman, E.D., was ordered to mobilize The Edmonton Regiment and recruit it up to the then war-strength establishment. The area allotted for recruiting, including the Peace River area, was substantially the same as that for the old "Forty-niners" in 1915. The new unit was early chosen for inclusion in the First Canadian Division and brigaded in the 2nd Brigade with the Princess Pats (as in the previous war) and the Seaforths of Canada. On Dec. 15th, 1939, the unit left Edmonton for overseas and landed in Scotland on Dec. 30th, proceeding thence to Cove Barracks in Hampshire. Then followed a hectic period of training, move and countermove. Under Lt.-Col. Stillman the Battalion was selected with the P.P.C.L.I. in April, 1940, to form part of a mixed Brigade for an expedition on the Trondjheim Fjord in Norway and spent some days under canvas in the cold and rain of Dunfermline in Scotland ready and equipped to proceed, only to have the order countermanded at the last moment. The Battalion experienced a like fate in June of the same year, when, with its transport all loaded and the advance party having already proceeded, under the command of Capt. Gilchrist, for France the order for the unit to proceed was cancelled. Later, under Lt.-Col. E. B. Wilson (afterwards Brig.) who succeeded to the command, one company of the Regiment, together with some Engineers and other details did manage to get into the Spitzbergen



raid, but chiefly up to the time when the Battalion embarked for Sicily it formed part of the defence of Southern England and was occupied in arduous training and long exercises, latterly in Scotland, preparing for the day they could get to grips with the enemy.

The new King's and Regimental colours donated respectively by Maj.-Gen. Griesbach and Hon. Lt.-Col. Ramsey were presented to the Regiment by His Majesty The King at the Guards Depot at Caterham, on Dominion Day, appropriately, 1941.

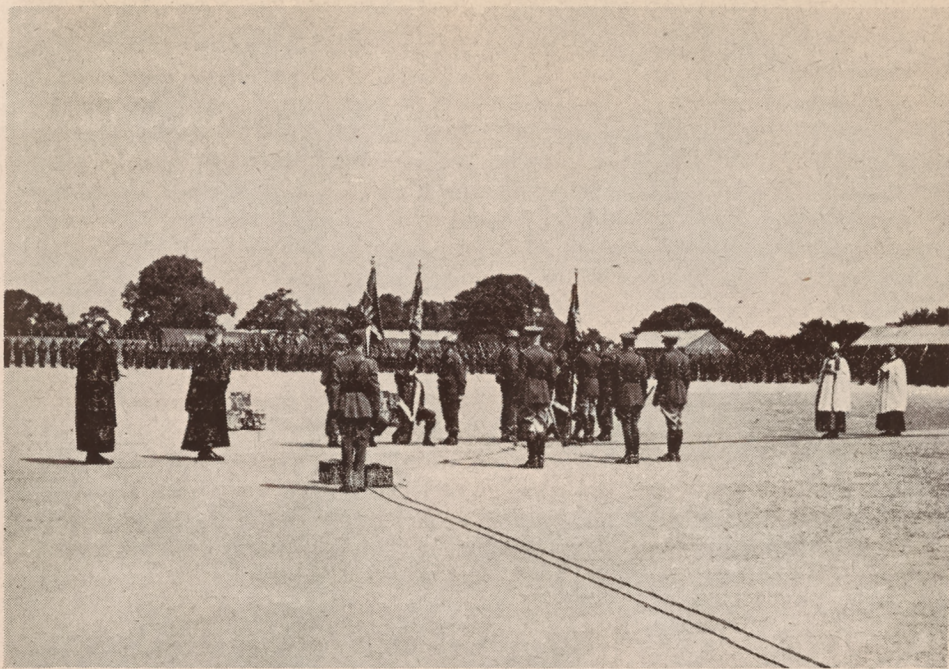
A succession of Commanding Officers before and during operations brought forward names like Wilson, Kitching, Jefferson, Coleman, Day, Bell-Irving, Stone and, finally Crompton—each with his magnetic personality adding to the now unbreakable spirit of co-operative teamwork of which the Regiment is so justly proud.

In 1943, after an unusually intensive period of training in combined operations, the Battalion embarked for the invasion of Sicily under the command of Lt.-Col. (afterwards Brig.) J. C. Jefferson. On July 10th, 1943, began the thirty-nine day campaign through the scorching heat, the white-hot dust and the hills that seemed to have no top, through which the men of the Regiment learned the meaning of war, but also the fact that the enemy was not a superhuman monster that could not feel defeat. The battles of Piazza-Armerina, Leonforte, Agira and Hill 736 taught the men, however, that when one of their comrades was tagged "casualty" it meant something more real than being tagged a "casualty" on a scheme in England. With the engagements of Revisoto and the Salso Valley, the first campaign of this last war in Sicily was over for the Battalion. At this time the official authorization to be styled "The Loyal Edmonton Regiment" was received, thus cementing the alliance to The Loyal Regiment effected by Col. Harris many years before. The numeral "49" is retained.

At the end of the short rest period the unit crossed the Straits of Messina to begin the pursuit of the German forces in Italy. Taking the hilly features with as much dislike for the terrain, but with as much determination to get on, as they had in Sicily, the Battalion advanced from the Toe of Italy up to the Calf of its leg-like geography before meeting any stiff resistance. The towns of San Bartolomeo, Baselice, Cercemaggiore and Vinchiatura were captured in quick succession and then the sharp fight at Colle d'Anchise brought an end to the unit's second campaign.

The First Canadian Division went into a well-earned rest around the Campobasso area, with The Loyal Edmonton Regiment in the brickyard at Baranello, until they were again committed to battle, this time, along the Adriatic coast. Following the break-through of the Sangro valley, the Canadians crossed the Moro river, and The Loyal Edmontons fought through San Leonardo to "Vino Ridge"—a bitter battle, with the enemy resisting fiercely to retain control of the approaches to the seaside town of Ortona. It was not until December 21st, 1943, that the way was cleared for the Regiment to launch the head-on assault on this fortress city, Ortona, now famous in the annals of the Italian campaign. The capture of this seaport was vital to shorten the lines of communication. For eight days and nights it was attack, attack, and yet again for the Battalion—attack from street to street, from





Loyal Edmonton Regiment presentation of Colours by H.M. King George VI at Caterham, Surrey, July 1, 1941.

building to building, from attic to cellar,—with arms sounding continuously through the smoke and dust that hung so heavily over the town, so that at times high-noon seemed like dusk. On December 29th the battle was over. The town was ours. The Loyal Edmonton Regiment rested.

After an all-too short rest in the ruins of Ortona there followed the seemingly unending period in the static line along the Arielli river, a few miles further north. Here, in the cold and rain of a long Italian winter, the Canadians lived in slime and mud of their slit-trenches for a period, broken only by a short rest out of the line, of more than three months. "Patrol" became the middle name of almost every man as thrusts were launched into the enemy lines nightly.

Eventually signs of spring began to show and the First Canadian Division was moved to the central-south of Italy for a period of infantry-cum-tank training prior to the launching of a new spring offensive. This offensive came, for The Loyal Edmonton Regiment, on the 23rd of May, 1944, when the all-out attack on the Hitler Line was made. That day will be remembered by all who took part in it as the one day in the history of this Regiment during which more hate and concentrated fury was dished out by the enemy than in any other equivalent period, of time. From early morning, through the stifling heat of the afternoon, and the darkness of the ensuing night, an apparently unending hail of enemy artillery, and mortar shells of all calibres fell amongst the attacking Canadians with unabating intensity. Indeed, in the whole history of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade casualties had never, before or after, been so heavy for a twenty-four hour period. The



battle was short, however, and by the next day the Battalion was moving in its advance that ended with the capture of Frosinone and Mount Radiccino, just prior to the fall of Rome.

During the summer of 1944 The Loyal Edmonton Regiment relaxed in a rest and training period at Piedmonte d'Alife, east of Naples, until about the first of August, when the Division began concentrating on the east coast of Italy preparatory to the attack on the Gothic Line, the German's longest and most formidable line in his defences in Italy. This attack was preceded by one of the most skilfully executed deception moves in which this Regiment took part. Convoy after convoy of allied troops of every nation moved into the Florence area and, in turn, held the line along the River Arno for a period of two or three days and left the enemy with the impression of a tremendous concentration of troops. The mass of troops were assembling not there, however, but on the extreme east coast of Italy, as one division after another completed its few days in front of Florence and was then rushed, under strict security, to the other coast. On the 24th August the attack on the Gothic Line commenced and from the silent crossing of the Metauro river until the capture of the Fortunato Ridge on the 25th September following, The Loyal Edmontons launched one attack after another with varying degrees of severity, but always with success, till the full depth of the Gothic Line had been penetrated and the entrances to the Lombardy Plains were ours. This advance, during which the Regiment zigzagged from one feature to another, forced the enemy from numerous features essential to his defence, such as the S'Giovanni feature (2,800 metres high) which was captured in a 5,000 yard night attack; Monte Luro, a completely bare but dominating mountain, pitted with dug-in panther turrets, pill-boxes and trenches, Monteccardo, the hill-top village against which one attack was launched by another regiment and four attacks were launched by The Loyal Edmontons before victory was finally achieved and the town captured. The final penetration of the depths of the Gothic Line was made by the bitterly fought, but successful, two-day attack for the approaches to, and the S'Fortunato Ridge, running inland from Rimini. After the conclusion of this battle, which netted several hundreds of prisoners the Regiment was taken to the seaside resort of Riccione a'Mare for a few weeks rest.

When the Regiment was next committed to battle, it was on the heavily vegetated, flat ground of the Lombardy Plains, which, almost like a pattern, were cut with one canal after another. The high dykes, deep canals, and closeness of the country, assisted the enemy greatly in his defences and our gains were made literally yard by bitterly contested yard. The Pisciatello river, crossed on the 18th October, was only a short distance from the Savio river. Here, too, an intense three-day battle was fought, and the heavy rain which fell made the river so impassable that for two days the infantry were unable to receive anything by way of support, except man-packed ammunition, and even that was impossible for a time, as the river was too swift for a man to swim. After one river came another canal, and so on until, across the Naviglio canal, the last of the enemy's counter-attacks was beaten off, and the First Canadian Division settled down to hold the winter line along the dykes of the Senio river.

At last, a long rumoured event became an actuality and the First Canadian Corps began in March, 1945, its long move from Italy to join the First



Canadian Army in Europe. From Leghorn The Loyal Edmontons crossed in LCI's to Marseilles and from there in the famous "GF" convoy across France into Belgium, where for two weeks the Battalion learned to appreciate the hospitality of the Belgian people in the little village of Nijlen. From there, into a concentration area in the Reichswald forest in Germany, the Battalion again prepared for battle, which came with the Buffalo crossing of the Ijssel river in Holland on the 12th of April. The magnitude of the European war was brought home to the Battalion with the leap-frogging attacks in which a Company would find itself the advance element of the Division in the morning and the reserve Company of the reserve Battalion by night-fall of the same day. Highly organized resistance of the enemy had been broken and any clashes that were made were on relatively small scales, as, in the case of one Company which was held up for a full day before being successful in capturing its objective bridges across the river just west of Voorst. Then came a period of long thrusts into enemy territory during which there was little fighting but an incredible amount of cheering and flag-waving by the hilariously happy Dutch people as one town after another turned out en masse to "welcome the liberators." This was brought to a culminating head with the 19-mile advance out 'into the blue' to the village of Barneveld where The Loyal Edmonton Regiment linked up with the 5th Canadian Armoured Division which had been making a similar advance up from the south.

Then came rumors of cessation of hostilities in Europe accelerated by the complete break-up of the German Army. At length with V-E. day.



C.S.M. J. R. Stone, now Lt.-Col.

Maj. G. M. Beaton; Capt. W. T. Cromb; S. M. Bryant; Capt. W. S. Backman; Maj. W. G. Bury



Tuesday, May 8th, 1945, the fighting career of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment in the European phase of the second World War came to an end. The news was received within the Regiment almost complacently—almost as an anticlimax—without demonstrations, or cheering, or celebrations. It had been so long. So many battles had been fought—so many miles had been covered and so many lives given up in the common cause, that realization came slowly to the men of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment that another World War had come to an end for them.

Yet one more honour to those already gained was to come to the Regiment before its record in World War II was to go into history. It was chosen from the First Canadian Division to form part of a composite Brigade (later reduced to a Composite Battalion) to furnish a temporary occupation force in Berlin. "A" and "B" Companies, commanded respectively by Majors Johnson and Armstrong, and later, by Capts. Hayter and Mackay, finally represented the Regiment in this Composite Battalion, and in the course of their duties in this special role took part on July 21st, 1945, in the British Victory Parade in Berlin, a parade to be long remembered by those who took part in it.

Soon after tales began to circulate of return to Canada for demobilization, and finally in the month of September, the Battalion crossed to England where a much merited ten days' leave awaited them prior to embarkation to Canada on the "Ile de France." During this leave period the officers of the unit were able to effect a meeting with Brig.-Gen. J. B. Underwood, D.S.O., and other officers of The Loyal Regiment at the Naval and Military Club in London, where a presentation of silver-plate was made to our Allied Regiment on behalf of the officers of the unit and our 2nd (Res.) Battalion.

Under the command of Lt.-Col. W. T. Cromb, D.S.O., and accompanied by its original Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. W. G. Stillman, E.D., the Loyal Edmonton Regiment entrained at Halifax after a perfect crossing of the Atlantic, being met at that point by Capt. Harper Prowse, M.L.A., an officer of the Regiment who had served through many of its actions in Italy. On a wet evening on October 6th, 1945, the unit reached Edmonton and detrained at the C.N. Railway Depot, and joined there by the old "Forty-niners" and their own returned veterans, with their colours unfurled, under banners strung across the streets proclaiming the actions they had fought in, and with the Bands playing the Regimental march the Battalion marched past the Lieutenant-Governor amid the acclamations of the patiently waiting, but very vociferous Edmonton population to be received on the Market Square by warm messages of welcome back from Lt.-Gov. Hon. J. C. Bowen, from the Premier of the Province, and from the Mayor of the City, appropriately replied to by the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. W. T. Cromb, D.S.O.

Thus closed the history of The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (49th) in World War II to a similar warm home-coming to that of their predecessors, the "Forty-niners" of World War I, in 1919.

The Loyal Edmonton Regiment (49th) is perpetuated in Canada's Reserve Army under the same title.



# 1st Bn. Edmonton Fusiliers, C.A.

2 AUGUST, 1940 TO 14 NOVEMBER, 1945

Official instructions for the mobilization of the 1st Battalion Edmonton Fusiliers were addressed by M.D. 13 on August 2, 1940, to T/Lt.-Col. H. Strachan, V.C., M.C., (then Major Strachan, O.C. "D" Company of the South Alberta Regiment). In part they read: "It is the intention to form the Edmonton Fusiliers, C.A.S.F. by organizing one company from each of the following N.P.A.M. units:—

15th Alberta Light Horse (R).

19th Alberta Dragoons (R).

Edmonton Fusiliers M.G. (R).

South Alberta Regiment (R).

Calgary Regiment (Tank) (R).

Here, then, from a solid foundation, was formed a unit, the original officers and men of whom, nurtured high hopes of a place in the Canadian Order of Battle.

Organization in the early stages was not hurried. Col. Strachan, an officer of considerable experience, decided to form his unit by building one company at a time.

Training got away to a good start, interest throughout the unit was keen, the tempo of training increased and was maintained throughout the winter. A pipe band was organized, trained and equipped. With the arrival of spring there were signs of "champing at the bit."



First Battalion Edmonton Fusiliers inspection by General Alexander, Edmonton, Dec. 1940.



Discipline was good. Esprit de corp high, morale was excellent; the unit had all the ear-marks of "one of the best."

The unit's first movement order was warmly received. Its first-away-from-home station was New Westminster, B.C. It was moving in the wrong direction, but nobody was concerned about its ultimate fate. On arrival, the unit came under the command of the Vancouver Defences and was assigned the role of "Mobile Reserve." Specific points of defence being the coast batteries at Point Gray, Second Beach and the Narrows. Training continued under favorable conditions. August rolled around and the unit celebrated its first birthday. It had come a long way in the first twelve months, and many amusing incidents of the early days were recalled.

14th of October, 1941, brought its second change of stations, by a move to Nanaimo, where it joined the 13th Infantry Brigade. The four-and-a-half months spent here was on straight training varying from T.O.E.T.'s to Brigade exercises. For a short period excitement reached a high pitch. At 11:30 hours, December 7th, word was received of the sneak attack of the Japanese on Pearl Harbor. As fuller details poured in, Brig. Colquhoun decided the 13th Canadian Infantry Brigade would not be caught napping and started to pour out order after order intermingled with counter orders for good measure. All units feverishly prepared slit trenches and A.A. posts were recc'd. Troops "stood to" at dawn and dusk; A.A. positions were manned from daylight to dusk; vehicles were carefully hidden in woods during daylight and a strict blackout was laid on; everybody clutched a rifle, sub-machine gun or revolver. The war seemed to be approaching rapidly from the West and the 13th Brigade was right there waiting for the fighting to start. As days and weeks wore on without signs of a Jap attack, precautions gradually relaxed.

In the early hours of the morning of 5th March, 1942, the unit bade farewell to the 13th Brigade and Nanaimo, and headed for Prince Rupert. The tour of duty here consisted of one company guarding the drydocks, ship building yards and large oil storage tanks. A company detailed as ground troops for the coastal batteries, another company detached and posted to the Queen Charlotte Island as ground troops for the R.C.A.F. station at Alliford Bay.

Highlights of the unit's stay at this station were the visits from the "high priced help" from N.D.H.Q. and Prince Rupert rain; however we did get one stretch of good weather. During this six-week period, spurred on by the promise of relief after completion, Officers, N.C.O.'s and men not on guard duty built, in record time, a camp of fifty-four huts, starting by blasting away rocks to open a road into a muskeg, on which corduroy roads were built and the huts floated. The busiest man in the area was the unit's Pioneer Officer.

Here, it was, that the unit received its first "jolt." A draft of 100 men were taken to bolster the re-inforcement stream to be followed only too soon by a complete company, after Dieppe. They were replaced by newly inducted H.D. personnel. A gloom shrouded the remaining active personnel. Possibilities now, of the Fusiliers seeing active service, as such, had completely faded. Morale sagged. Their chief concern now was to get on draft. Dozens of Sgts. and other N.C.O.'s requested to be reverted to the ranks to expedite this. Suddenly the situation brightened. Word was received to despatch all H. D.





1st Bn. Edm. Fusiliers March Past Governor-General, the Earl of Athlone, Edmonton, Aril, 1941

personnel to another unit; the Fusiliers were once again to be an "all active" unit. Morale reached its old-time high on 19th September, 1942. "The best news in months" was the general comment when it was announced that they were leaving Prince Rupert. Two Company Commanders and one Company 2 I/C. along with some N.C.O.'s were left behind on staff.

When the unit reached Sidney, B.C., it was re-grouped. "D" Company, which had been stationed in the Queen Charlottes for seven months, rejoined the unit. Everyone hoped now that the promised active re-inforcements would arrive and training, which was badly needed, would commence. Its strength now was 432 all ranks, as compared with 920 when the unit left Edmonton; but still—it was an all-active group.

The unit was re-inforced in January, 1943, by the arrival of 162 men, followed by 175 more on 6th February—all H.D. recruits. Within ten days another 100 of its Active personnel were funneled into the reinforcement stream. By this time, the pipe band had disappeared. It was impossible to train pipers and drummers fast enough to replace bandsmen needed to fill the demand for Active reinforcements.

On the 13th March, the unit was on the move to Courtney, B.C., for Combined Operations which lasted fourteen days, and was voted the best training period to date.

It was a pretty miserable bunch of men that reached Port Alberni, the next stop, for they had travelled 75 miles on foot from Courtney in atrocious weather, making sites for bivouacs difficult to locate. Everybody and everything was soaked from the rain, sleet and snow, but they were glad to squeeze into recreation huts or any other building that afforded accommodation.

The change from Active to H. D. personnel proceeded apace at this station. The unit now was merely a glorified travelling training centre, with



few, if any, of the amenities which these normally static units enjoyed; and handicapped with a constant loss of experienced officers and N.C.O.'s. It was at this station, with a platoon stationed at the Pacific Cable Station at Bamford and a company at Ucluelet, both forty-five miles from Battalion Headquarters, that the unit was down to eight officers—which included the Quarter Master, Paymaster and M.O. One Lieutenant, recently posted from a training centre, was in command of two rifle companies. On 12th June, 1943, a complete company was transferred to the R.M.R.'s for the Kiska expedition—the Fusiliers receiving in exchange 120 untrained men screened from that unit.

"Never say die" was the motto of the unit, so another re-shuffle of officers and N.C.O.'s was made and training continued.

Nothing excites a soldier's imagination so much as the prospects of a move; and when the move is from an isolated station in a barren part of the country to his home-town—well, that's something! In September, 1943, the unit received orders to leave Long Beach for Edmonton. Here, it was to be screened for foreign service—according to reliable information. Excitement was at fever pitch. Even non-Edmontonians, and there were hundreds in the unit now, were excited at the thought of seeing Alberta's Capital City or of leaving Long Beach. Stores and equipment were packed in record time.

After screening and shortly before leaving Edmonton, the unit was presented with a complete Pipe Band—transferred from the Lanark and Renfrew Scottish Battalion. A tough break for that unit, but a welcome addition to the Fusiliers. On 21st October, 1943, after embarkation leave, the re-vamped unit left Edmonton for Sussex, N.B., for extensive training, on what was fully expected to be the first leg of a move to its first foreign station. Hope eternal! As weeks and months passed by, talk of a foreign station died—the unit was jinxed.

On 3rd of February, 1944, orders were received to move to Niagara Falls. Role: To guard the power plant and hydro installations. No one was sorry to leave the biting winds and chilly New Brunswick weather, even if it meant back-treking to balmy Niagara Falls. Here the Fusiliers spent its longest period in any one station. A total of ten months on V.P. guard duty without a break. During this period the personnel changed considerably. Numerous drafts, H.D. and N.R.M.A. turned Active and, along with key personnel were funnelled into the reinforcement stream, to be replaced by more N.R.M.A. and under-age Active recruits. Officers were posted to the unit for short periods then "on draft" overseas.

On 14th of October, 1944, the C.O., Lt.-Col. H. Strachan, V.C., M.C., who had seen his well trained unit of "Active" personnel dwindle to a mere handful of originals, relinquished command and returned to "Civvy Street". Major T. G. Brown, E.D., the unit's second in command, assumed command.

In early December advice that the unit was scheduled to go overseas had the few remaining original personnel keyed up. On 12th of December, the fifty odd posts maintained on the power project were closed. The unit was moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake and reinforcements poured in. Up to this time its main role in the war appeared to be a mobile training centre; and now, overnight, it had changed to a mobile depot. Officers and men poured in from all over Canada. In most cases, through low Pulhems, their stay was short. They



were posted elsewhere and replaced by more reinforcements. The unit had six adjutants in as many weeks, none with previous experience. This was the period of reconversion, for the powers-that-be now realized that they needed infantry. The unit could produce personnel wearing flashes from the R.C.A. to Dental Corp. Experienced tradesmen, who joined the army as such, found themselves in the "gravel crushers." Enthusiasm and morale were at an all-time low. Platoons and companies were re-organized and a strenuous training program laid on. A large portion of the unit now were under-age Active personnel. Gradually esprit de corp developed. Towards the end of February word was received, with mixed feelings, that the Battalion would proceed on garrison duty to Newfoundland.

On 1st of March, after a sudden advance on dates, one half of the unit left for its first foreign station; to be followed fifteen days later by the remainder of the unit. By the time the second flight arrived at St. Johns, Newfoundland, the advance party had manned the Atlantic cable stations at Harbour Grace and Bay Roberts and coast watching stations on Conception Bay.

"V-E" Day found the unit still on garrison duty; later, precautions were relaxed, and the unit grouped at St. Johns.

Volunteers were called for the Pacific, who started on special training.

"V-J" Day arrived and was celebrated in an orderly fashion. Arrangements for withdrawal of Canadian units in Newfoundland now got underway; however, the infantry was badly needed for the usual working parties, so the Fusiliers remained.



1st Battalion Edmonton Fusiliers goodwill tour to Niagara Falls, N.Y.—July 1, 1944.



Orders for the unit's return to Debert Camp for demobilization were received early in October. 14th of November was the deadline for nil strength. Through lack of shipping, movement was delayed. Eventually the Lady Rodney steamed into St. Johns and on 31st October the unit embarked on the first leg of its homeward journey.

During its period of mobilization, 165 officers and 4,500 O.R.'s passed through the 1st Battalion Edmonton Fusiliers, most of whom served with units in the field, a large number with distinction. Fifteen officers volunteered for service with the Imperial Army. Two were awarded M.C.'s. In addition, as sketched briefly in the foregoing, the unit filled occupational roles in eleven stations from Ucluelet on the west side of Vancouver Island, to the rocky coast of Newfoundland.

That the unit was not privileged to see combat will be the lasting regret of its original officers, W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s and men, and also, the writer feels, a large number of the personnel who served with it as reinforcements. During its service in the different stations, it enhanced the name of the city it was proud to represent. At all times behaviour of its personnel was above reproach and rarely did it leave a station without receiving high praise for behaviour and co-operation with the civic and other authorities whether it be sporting events, parades to stimulate interest in War Loan drives or other local enterprises.

The unit is now perpetuated in the Reserve Army as the "19th Armored Car Regiment, Edmonton Fusiliers," in which unit a number of 1st Battalion officers are now serving.

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## The 3rd Bn. Edmonton Fusiliers, C.A.(A)

Following many rumors and subsequent temporary disappointments authority was granted for the mobilization of a second battalion of the Edmonton Fusiliers on active service on 21 June 1942. Lt.-Col. H. B. Jamieson was appointed to command and proceeded immediately to Calgary for mobilization instructions.

The first Orderly Room was opened in the Prince of Wales Armouries with Lt. E. H. Stutchbury as acting Adjutant and the advance party proceeded to Sarcee Camp on 5 July '42.

Lt. G. W. Thomson was attached as Paymaster and CSM J. W. Clucas and CQMS W. W. Ward of the Reserve A & T Staff were attested to cover the appointments of RSM and RQMS. With the arrival of CSM S. Mallet and 26 NCOs, transferred from the 1st Bn. Edmn. Fus. the first battalion parade fell in at 0800 hours 13 July 42 with a total strength of 37 all ranks.

By the end of July, the total strength was 5 officers, including Major J. McDonald, M.C., as 2i/c and 2nd Lieut. J. A. MacEachern and 111 OR.

During August a number of Officers reported for duty and total strength at 31 August 42 was 21 Officers and 144 OR.

Six new officers reported for duty in September and the arrival of additional equipment including 4 Universal Carriers provided further facilities for training.

Movement Warning Orders were received in late September, and the prospect of foresaking tentage at Sarcee Camp for the supposed warmth of the Pacific Coast was welcome news. By the time the final movement order was effective temperatures had dropped and tempers had risen proportionately as each morning revealed frozen tent flaps and water taps.

The Advance Party proceeded to Vancouver on September 6th, followed by the main body the next day.

Being successors to Japanese internees in residence at Hastings Park left much to be desired but gradually the Camp organization was completed despite almost continuous fog and rain. By the middle of October we had 2 platoons taking advanced training, a group of "R" recruits taking "basic" and the officers busy on tactics and general instruction.

On October 18th, with a total all ranks strength of 196, we provided the Armed Forces representation at a "Flag Raising Ceremony" at Vancouver City Hall before an assembled audience of seven (7) spectators, including the Mayor.

Remembrance Day, November 11, 1942, is a day to be remembered for the fog swallowed up the battalion. We joined Veterans of the 29th Bn. C.E.F., and the fog lifted from 1059 hours to 1102 hours in front of the Cenotaph.

Lt. G. W. Tomlinson was taken on strength from the 1st Bn. Edmonton Fusiliers and was immediately detailed to train a firing party for the funeral of a former member of the 1st Bn. The firing party never functioned as the body was shipped to Edmonton.



The first Court of Inquiry on Illegal Absence was held November 21st on Fus. S. R. Johnston, the only member of the unit sentenced to detention in the whole life of the battalion.

Capt. Neal, Lieut. Parlee, 3 NCO's and 55 OR's were selected for special duty as Signal Project Detail with No. 11 District Signals at Williams Lake, B.C. They were outfitted with special wet weather equipment and extra winter clothing. The balance of the unit was re-organized as two platoons.

Information was received December 8th that the Bn. was to be ready for an immediate move. General distribution had been made of the Movement Order but someone erred and neither the Order nor CS & TO instructions were received by the Unit most concerned. Acting on well confirmed rumors we prepared to vacate Hastings Park, issued Unit movement orders on verbal instructions and loaded ammunition and equipment on verbal suggestions from the S. & T. Movement Order and Transportation Instructions were received December 11th and seven hours later the advance party proceeded to Prince George, B.C. The main body left Vancouver at 1945 hours 13 Dec. 42 arriving in Prince George at 0345 hours 15 Dec. 42. Officers, W.O.s and NCOs were immediately attached to 8th Cdn. Div., the Prince of Wales Rangers and the Oxford Rifles for quarters and rations and OR's were quartered in P. O. W. R. hutments and fed under Unit arrangements.

January 16th, 1943 saw the arrival of 142 "R" recruits, the first of several drafts which were to bring us up to full strength. The second draft of 147 arrived on January 25th. The new arrivals brought new problems of housing, training, organization and administration, and hundreds of cases of Mumps, Measles and Scarlet Fever.

One hut was quarantined on January 22nd and by January 30th the entire unit area was under quarantine, but Lt. M. Weaver had reported for duty as M.O. which helped a little. The quarantine continued until March 23rd, curtailing leaves, entertainment and other social activities.

New contingents of "R" recruits continued to arrive to join our solitude and take their places in training platoons and in the always overcrowded hospital. With true army logic and in spite of the quarantine and our increasing strength, 3 senior officers proceeded on a Coy. Commanders course at R.M.C., 7 junior officers were ordered to A16 CITC, Calgary on qualifying courses and we continued to dispatch NCOs and our best trained ORs to schools and courses. On 28 Feb. 43 our total "paper" strength was 29 officers and 703 OR's but we were hard pressed to muster half that number for the C.O.s parade.

Evening schools were commenced on March 3rd for Orderly Room, Pay, Q.M., Transportation, Kitchen and Mess staffs to improve their efficiency as soldiers. A Unit Battle Drill course for NCOs and selected OR's was started in the evenings under Lt. Seal and 5 officers and 19 NCOs began a Musketry course in the Johnson Method of Coaching.

H/Capt. M. A. Johnson reported for duty as Padre on April 16th and the same day Capt. Neal, Lt. Parlee and 61 NCOs and OR's were released from duty on the communications program in the Cariboo area for return to the unit.



Spring Seeding Leave provided a real problem in a unit that was 85% "R" recruits, almost all of whom were from farms in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The '5% strength' limitation permitted only 36 to proceed, whereas over 400 applications were received. Selection of the most eligible was not easy and 40 disappointed applicants were ultimately charged 'en masse' for signing a 'round robin' to N.D.H.Q.

Lieuts. Nelson and Nerland, with Sgts. Grant and White and 37 OR's proceeded on April 29th to No. 13 District Depot, Calgary, enroute overseas as reinforcements. They were followed by 7 other NCOs on May 15th.

Sgts. D. Cameron and F. J. Hicks were appointed to commissioned rank to fill vacancies in the unit and Sgts. N. McBeth and F. J. Bore proceeded to the OTC as reinforcement officer candidates. Just to add another accomplishment to the unit record, we raised \$24,200.00 or 224% of our quota for the 4th Victory Loan.

A number of Homing Pigeons were donated to the Unit through the efforts of Cpl. McAuley, who assumed their care and training. The first official flight of 31½ miles was completed in five minutes, but we were unable to make arrangements to send a pigeon contingent with the C.O. to Courtney, B.C. for a return flight. Capt. Neal was granted powers of a Commanding Officer during the C.O.s absence.

Exercise "Buffalo" at Wainwright, Alberta really depleted the battalion. A full company under Capt. Montgomery was attached to the Prince of Wales Rangers and 4 officers, 4 sergeants and 115 OR's were attached to the Oxford Rifles for the exercise. They never returned to the unit except as visitors but we took over 91 untrained OR's from the P. of W. R. and the Oxf. R. requiring re-organization with an Admin. Wing, Support Coy. and 2 Rifle Companies. With a dwindling strength, many of whom were on Farm Leave or unfit for full training, it was natural that we should acquire 22 reinforcement officers for duty and training, on temporary attachment. They could not be employed on platoon duties but they received a liberal education in administration, Q.M. duties, M/T supervision, Unit intelligence and even had tours of duty with the M.O. and the Paymaster.

June 1943 was a bad month for AWL. A total of 22 OR's and 13 pigeons failed to report on schedule, the ORs overstayed their Spring Seeding Leave but we never did find out what happened to the pigeons.

Capt. Davies took over temporary command of the unit when the CO was called to Vancouver for a conference. During the CO's absence orders were received for confirmation of categories and completion of documents of all ranks. It was the beginning of the end and the CO returned to report that our unit, together with all 3rd battalions in Canada, was to be disbanded. Fortunately for the CO he did not have to be present for the final demise but proceeded with Capt. Neal, CSM Longbotham and Sgt. Lansdowne on the 5th series of attachments overseas on 25 July 1943.

We became a temporary disposal depot for the 16th Bde. and drafts proceeded daily to the P. of W. R., the Oxf. R., the Regina Rifles and sundry other units. And nearly always it rained—even the heavens were weeping at the passing of the 3rd Edmontons.

Major Edwards had assumed acting command on the departure of the O.C. and was plagued with disciplinary charges passed on to us by our sister battalions when they unloaded their undesirables. We also achieved our first



case of drunkenness when our youngest Cpl. went slightly berserk. He lost his rank.

The official date for disbandment was August 15th but, while awaiting posting instructions on a few 'left-overs', we held a final battalion parade at full strength of 4 officers, 3 WOs, 4 Sgts. and 15 OR's on August 27th for the presentation of the Efficiency Decoration to Major Edwards by Major Gen. Ganong, the GOC.

The final Ordnance check-up provided the usual headache but with the assistance of the GOC, we wrote off our shortages even though they did include seven double tier beds. Ordnance' best gesture was received five days before disbandment—"Catalogue for Census of Stores" expected since mobilization finally arrived. Incidentally, we received a memo from Ordnance in February, 1944, forwarded to Ottawa from Ottawa by way of Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton. It said "It is regreted that requisitioned items are still in short supply but it is anticipated that they will be forwarded in due course".

By the end of August, 1943, the Adj. and A/RQMS Farley were the sole survivors, awaiting Ordnance and Audit clearance. R.I.P. could now be written to the 3rd Bn. Edmonton Fusiliers after 14 months existence. We were a good unit and history has proven that wherever our personnel were posted they gave a good account of themselves. That goes equally for those unfortunates who could not proceed overseas but continued to give faithful service in Canada. Statistics are not available but we know of at least 4 officers and a number of NCOs and OR's who gave their lives in action. Promotions followed many others and there are several whom we started toward commissioned rank, that rated a salute from the Adj. before they returned to civvy street.

No history of the battalion could be complete without the statement, not subject to successful contradiction, that from the CO, Lt.-Col. H. B. Jamieson, E.D., to the bugle boy, Fus. J. P. Nutt, officer for officer and man for man, we did not take second place to anyone within six months of our stage of training. Our discipline was excellent, our morale of the highest order. Over 80% of the unit were "R" recruits but they developed an anxiety to to learn, a desire to do a good job, and a willingness to tackle anything. Even our few conscientious objectors completed training without punishment.

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## HISTORY OF

**First Canadian Armoured Brigade Coy  
(83 Coy) R.C.A.S.C.**

The Unit was mobilized in Edmonton, on November 6th, 1940 with Major W. A. de Graves, D.S.O. as Commanding Officer and the instructions were that the Unit was to be recruited from the Edmonton and Calgary areas.

On December 4th, 1940 Major de Graves, Lieut. C. H. Rennie, Lieut. W. T. Hunter, Lieut. W. R. Hoag, from Edmonton and Captain MacCrimmon and Lieut. D. G. Dailley from Calgary and thirty other ranks proceeded to Camp Borden, Ontario for a short course there which lasted for thirty days. On the completion of the course quarters were assigned to the Company and Major de Graves immediately returned to the West and recruited the balance of the Unit and by the middle of February the Unit was up to strength and in quarters at Camp Borden, Ontario. Lieut. J. G. Anderson and Lieut. F. G. Swanson were the remaining two original officers.

In February the First Canadian Armoured Brigade was formed under the command of the then Brig. Worthington and our Company was included as the Service Corps to the Brigade. The Company went into intensive training during this period and in the middle of May, Major de Graves proceeded Overseas with other officers of the Brigade as an advance party and Captain Allen, O.B.E. was detailed temporarily to command the Unit.

On June 19th the Company left Camp Borden and embarked at Halifax on June 21st, 1941 for England and landed at Greenock in Scotland on the 1st of July, 1941 and was immediately transported to Salisbury Plains where it was equipped.

Three months were spent on Salisbury Plains and in September, 1941 the Brigade was concentrated in the Frensham-Hindhead area where it remained until the middle of December, 1941, at which time it was moved to the South Coast of England and was given an operational role. The Company was first stationed at Brighton and later at Burgess Hill. From December 1941 until April 1943 the Brigade was in the South Coast area continually training.

Major de Graves left the unit in June 1942 and was succeeded as Commanding Officer by Major Brennan and in the Spring of 1943 he was succeeded by Captain G. D. Ross-Smith.

On 19th of April, 1943 the Brigade moved to Scotland for the purposes of training, re-equipping and water-proofing in preparation for the invasion of Sicily and the Company was stationed at Annan. On the 25th of April two more platoons were added to the Company making it a five Platoon Company.

On the 17th of June, "A" Platoon with a detachment from work shops and the composite platoon embarked at Greenock with the Three Rivers Regiment for the assault landing in support of 1st Canadian Division which was made at Pachino Bay, Sicily on the 10th of July, 1943. The balance of the Brigade sailed on the 1st of July, 1943 and landed in Sicily on the 13th of July, 1943 and was concentrated in the Syracuse area.



For the majority of the Sicilian campaign the Brigade only had one Regiment committed so that there was only one Platoon in action most of the time. At the close of the Sicilian campaign one Platoon was taken away and given to the 1st Canadian Division.

On the 3rd of September the assault landing on the toe of Italy was made and the Calgary and the Ontario Regiments each supported by a Platoon of the Company landed and proceeded north up the foot of Italy.

The Brigade was then committed to the following actions in Italy:

- Gallico—Marina—September 1943
- Motta—1 October 1943
- Termoli—6 October 1943
- Campobasso—October 1943
- Roiano—19 October 1943
- Sangro River Crossing—21 November 1943
- Moro River Crossing, San Leonardo and Advance to Ortona X-Roads - 9 - 22 December 1943
- The Ortona Cross Roads—15 December 1943
- Ortona—26 December 1943
- Arielli
- Cassino—20 March 1944
- Gari River Crossing—12 May 1944
- Gustav Line—May 1944
- Adolf Hitler Line—14-24 May 1944
- Acquino Airport—19 May 1944
- Pursuit to the Melfa River—27 May 1944
- Transimeno Line—21 June 1944
- Advance to the Arno River—21 July 1944
- Florence—19 August 1944
- Arno River Crossing—21 September 1944
- Gothic Line—September 1944
- Advance through the Appenine Mountains—October 1944 to January 1945

The Company was in continuous service supporting all the above engagements and never once was the Brigade held up for lack of supplies, ammunition or petrol. The Company adapted itself to whatever the changing position required.

In the Spring of 1944 Major Ross-Smith was succeeded as Commanding Officer by Major Robarts and he commanded the Company until the Spring of 1945 when he went on rotational leave to Canada for some six months and during that period the Company was commanded by Major R. MacLeod.

On the 26th of February, 1945 the Brigade was concentrated at Leghorn in Italy, was moved to Marseilles in France and proceeded by road to concentration area in West Flanders. The Company being stationed at the Town of Herseaux.

On the 23rd of March, 1945 the Brigade was again committed to action and took part in the following campaigns in the North-west European area.

- Ijssel River Crossing—Arnhem—12 April 1945
- Apeldoorn and pursuit to Grebbe Line—14 April 1945
- Pursuit West of Arnhem—Ede—16 April 1945



For the ten days prior to the declaration of Armistice the "T" Platoon was engaged in running rations through the German lines to the Dutch at Utrecht and on the 12th of May, 1945 one platoon was chosen to be a part of the Berlin Brigade which moved into Berlin for a short period.

On the 19th of June, 1945 First Canadian Armoured Brigade was disbanded and the Company was to be under command of the Third Canadian Division and moved to its final billets in Zeist near Utrecht where it remained until the Company commenced disbandment for the return to Canada on the 15th of November, 1945.

A few of the Highlights of the First Canadian Armoured Brigade should be mentioned.

The Brigade was committed in action longer than any other formation in the Canadian Army. It was in action a total of 532 days out of a total possible of 668 days (10th of July, 1943 to 8th of May, 1945).

The Brigade served under the First Canadian Army, Fifth United States Army, and the Eighth British Army and served directly under the following divisions:

**CANADIAN  
BRITISH**

1 Cdn., 2 Cdn., 3 Cdn. and 5 Cdn. Armd.

1 Brit., 4 Brit., 5 Brit., 6 Brit. Armd., 49 (WR) Brit., 50 (Northumberland) Brit., 51 (HD) Brit., 56 (London) Brit., 78 Brit., and 231 (Ind.) Bde.

**INDIAN  
AMERICAN**

4 Ind., 8 Ind., and 10 Ind.

**NEW ZEALAND**

85 U.S. and 88 U.S.

2 N. Z.

The Company held a Reunion in January of this year which was attended by well over one hundred including five of the original officers, amongst whom was the first Commanding Officer, Major de Graves.

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## HISTORY OF

**No. 4 Casualty Clearing Station**

## WORLD WAR II

Upon the outbreak of hostilities in World War II the No. 4 C.C.S., R.C.A.M.C. was mobilized under Lt.-Col. Washburn who had been Officer Commanding the 17th Cavalry Light Field Ambulance.

The 4 C.C.S. was recruited in the City of Edmonton and from some of the staff of the Provincial Hospitals in Oliver and Ponoka.

The Officers of the Unit under Lt.-Col. Washburn were:

Capt. M. Weinlos  
Capt. W. Hall  
Capt. C. M. W. Weinlos  
Capt. J. W. Bridge  
Capt. E. B. Quehl  
Capt. J. S. Gardner  
Capt. J. M. Nixon  
Capt. W. E. Addinell  
Capt. Clough  
Capt. Malone

Upon its formation the Unit immediately began operations and kept working at capacity in the Prince of Wales Armouries carrying out medical examinations on recruits from northern Alberta, as well as keeping up a program of training in preparation for the heavy tasks to come.

After being reviewed by Major-General Ashton early in January the 4 C.C.S. was selected as the first Casualty Clearing Station to proceed overseas for service with the first Canadian Division. On January 24, 1940, the Unit departed from Edmonton for England. After disembarking at Greenock, the Unit proceeded to the Aldershot area where Canadian concentration was taking place, arriving at Guadaloupe Bks., Borden, England, on February 8, 1940. Soon after Lt.-Col. Washburn returned to Canada. In May, after a brief period of adjustment and training, the Unit moved into concentration area of the First Canadian Division, 4th, 5th and 9th Field Ambulances, preparatory to departure for France. At this time Lt.Col. V. Williams took over the command. Upon the debacle in France this expedition of the Canadians was cancelled and a period of movement followed which took the Unit to the vicinity of the famous city of Oxford, ending up in Southern England, on the outskirts of London as part of the combined mobile force of English and Canadian troops known as McNaughton's Flying Circus. It was during this period that the Unit was first subjected to bombing.

The Unit set up under canvas for full-scale operations in the vicinity of the well-known Epsom Downs race track. The Unit provided hospitalization for Canadian soldiers, covering surgical and medical cases. It was while the Unit was here that the German bombing commenced in July which preceded the Battle of Britain and bombing of London and English cities, towns and villages. Operations and care of sick and wounded was continued twenty-four hours a day in spite of air battles overhead and continuous bombing by night. It was



here that the first German wounded P.O.W.'s were treated by the Unit. It was here also that the Unit was joined by Nursing Sisters, who took their allotted places and carried on despite the danger of the bombs. The area covered by the Unit was completely surrounded by bomb craters and while there were many near misses not one bomb fell within the confines of the Hospital, although shrapnel from the anti-craft bursts played a tattoo on the canvas at times. Operations under canvas were continued here until November, 1940, when the Unit was moved to nearby Dorking, Surrey, where they commenced operation as a two hundred bed hospital on the estate of Sir Malcolm Fraser at the foot of the famous Box Hill. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester visited the Hospital during an air raid. Here the Unit operated on a complete Hospital basis as well as running classes for training for nursing orderlies from other Medical Units and Battle First Aid for personnel from combat units. The Unit also provided a light section of its own for many schemes and manoeuvres carried out by the Canadian forces.

In August, 1942, under Lt.-Col. Hamilton, who took over command, the Unit was taken out of operation and put into a period of physical conditioning and preparation of equipment in order that the Unit might be ready for any type of operation that it might be called upon to undertake at a moment's notice. Lt.-Col. Hamilton was replaced by Lt.-Col. Hunter at this time due to illness. It was upon resumption of full Hospital duties that the Unit received a big disappointment when it was decided that a C.C.S. was not to be sent to Sicily with the First Canadian Division. The Unit opened up again operating a 200-bed hospital at Lingfield, Cranleigh, in Surrey, under Lt.-Col. Hunter, and finally at Arlesford, Hampshire, near the Cathedral town of Winchester with Lt.-Col. W. O. Mader as Officer Commanding. During this period hospitalization and travelling clinics were carried out for the 2nd Canadian Division, the 3rd Canadian Division and the 5th Canadian Division (Armoured).

Early in this period the Unit played a leading part in Canadian Medical Services in the Spartan Scheme, which was the largest training scheme ever carried out. The speed of setting up for operation under canvas and preparing for movement as well as the smooth and efficient manner in which the 4 C.C.S. carried out their duties drew complimentary observations from both English and Canadian Medical Units.

Up until this time, the Unit had only suffered one loss, the result of a traffic mishap, although bombs and machine gun bullets from strafing Fokke-Wulf's had come too close for comfort.

Finally, in October, 1943, the Unit was on its way with the First Canadian Corps for the Mediterranean and at this time was commanded by Lt.-Col. W. E. Mace. After an interesting trip and a half-hour of vicious Nazi air attack with bombs and torpedoes, the convoy reached Sicily with but small loss. The Unit disembarked at what was left of the port of Augusta and proceeded by cattle pullman to Catania. In this latter place, the Capital of Sicily, the boys rubbed shoulders with troops from many parts of the world including native troops from far-flung points of the British Empire. The Unit was immediately put into operation as a combined hospital and convalescent station. It was at this point that the transportation of patients by air was first carried out by the Unit. After a very brief stop-over the Unit left the command of First Canadian Corps and disembarked from Catania on a British Hospital Ship



and after first missing the serious bombing of Bari, Italy, by the Luftwaffe, disembarked at Taranto, the former haven of the Italian Navy. After a few hours stop-over the Unit departed by train of ancient Italian vintage for Torre Maggiore, Italy. Here they took over from an English Hospital and started in to make up a complete set of C.C.S. equipment from the left-overs of two English Casualty Clearing Stations who were being relieved.

Christmas was celebrated in Torre Maggiore. Just at this time the First Canadian Division had taken Ortona and the Four C.C.S. was moved up during the first part of the New Year to go into combat operation for the first time, in Vasto on the Adriatic Coast, in support of the First Canadian Division. Lt.-Col. Bowen had now taken over command of the Unit. The Unit was now attached to the Eighth British Army and operated in conjunction with No. Five British Casualty Clearing Station and the Fourth Indian. The Unit lived up to all expectations in the manner in which it handled the heavy casualties during the period of severe combat on the Ortona front. British as well as Indian casualties were handled here. When the First Canadian Corps moved up from Sicily at a later date the Unit automatically came under command of their own Corps, Lt.-Col. Bowen was transferred to No. 15 Canadian General Hospital and was replaced in command of the Unit by Lt.-Col. Noble.

In the spring the move to the Mediterranean was commenced and after being in operation under canvas during concentration of the Canadians at Variano railhead for two weeks, the Unit was moved forward to Cox's corner, just below Cassino, and here the resources of every man were called upon to keep up to the heavy flow of casualties, this being the start of the Hitler Line fight, during which the Unit was destined to be subjected to severe trials. As the Canadian Corps broke through the first line of defences the 4th C.C.S. was moved rapidly up to Ceprano on the paved highway leading to Rome. In this particular operation every bit of equipment and every yard of canvas were used in handling the Casualties and it was here that the care of civilian patients presented a problem as refugees came pouring in from hide-outs in the mountains suffering from wounds, starvation and exhaustion.

The Canadian Corps was drawn out of action for a well-deserved rest and the 4th C.C.S. were put on a period of complete rest, as they had been in continuous and strenuous operation for a considerable period. Leave of one week in Rome was the special reward for all.

The Unit then started the long trip northward finally going into operation near Spoleto in central Italy, north of Rome. The Canadian Corps was in concentration nearby and the Unit provided full hospitalization under canvas for the troops. From here a mountainous journey was made to Jesi, on the Adriatic side of Italy where the Unit concentrated for one week prior to going into action at San Michele for the start of the Gothic Line fight. Lt.-Col. P. J. Malone had now replaced Lt.-Col. Noble as Officer Commanding the Unit. The Unit worked at capacity under canvas and after two weeks of this operation moved up to Mesano Mare to within a mile-and-a-half of the front lines in a new formation of medical Units designed to bring major operations closer to the site of the origin of the wounds, which worked effectively. Here the Unit rendered forward medical services to the First Canadian Corps and the New Zealand and the Greek Divisions, during the battles for Corriano Ridge, Riccione, Rimini, etc. At just about the time the men were beginning to



show the strain, under which they had been working, the First Canadian Corps was placed in reserve and the Unit was immediately relieved and went into complete rest at Riccioni which was now in Allied hands.

After a brief rest the Unit moved up to Cesenatico into immediate operation in an old naval cadet barrack which was in a dilapidated condition. In spite of trying conditions and inclement weather the Unit operated at capacity handling wounded and exhaustion cases, the latter being far more numerous than heretofore. In January, 1945, very large numbers of German prisoners of war in a pitiable state of exhaustion and malnutrition were dealt with. Personnel of the Unit were billeted in a widely scattered area thus adding to the general difficulties. To cap all, the high seas from the Adriatic, during the month of January flooded the Unit Admission as well as the Evacuation Wards.

On 17th February the Unit set out for France with all equipment, stores and personnel in some fifty odd vehicles. The Unit staged at such points as San Ricanati, Mazzog Rogna, Lucera Pietro, Variano, Naples, then via S.S. Empire Pride to Marseilles and then from there overland again through St. Rambert, Macon, Les Baumes, Les Montils, Cambrai across Belgian border to Elsegen. Here the Unit again went in to operation in a convent with a one hundred bed Hospital for sick from 1st Canadian Corps and were kept busy. The next set up was at Nijmegen where the Unit took over from No. 2 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in preparation for the Arnhem battle. Another busy period ensued until the cessation of hostilities in Holland. In this battle casualties were received from a British Paratroop Brigade as well as the Canadian Army.

The Unit then moved to Amsterdam on May 11th, 1945, and took over a former Luftwaffe Hospital, the finest in Holland, named after Queen Wilhelmina. Two hundred Dutch civilians were used in the operation of this large Hospital and their co-operation and willingness to help was excellent.

On 28th of June, 1945, the Unit ceased active operations in World War II. The Unit moved to Apeldoorn for final break-up and hand over all equipment and vehicles. On the 25th of July, 1945, the Unit turned over all records and ceased to function as a Unit. From then on the personnel either returned to Canada on draft or were posted to other Units in the area.

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## No. 19 Coy, Canadian Forestry Corps

No. 19 Company, Canadian Forestry Corps was authorized to recruit in Alberta on Sept. 6th, 1940 and was to be up to strength and move to Val Cartier Camp on or about Oct. 16th. However, the movement of other Companies, then at Val Cartier, overseas, was not carried out as promptly as anticipated, and No. 19 Company completed their basic training in Edmonton.

The strength of the Company was 199 other ranks and six officers, and within a month, the Company was up to strength and training continued in Edmonton until February 11th, 1941 when the Company was moved to Val Cartier.

The original officers of the Company were Major R. R. Pointer, O.C., Capt. R. W. Langford second in command, Lt. Harold Segar in charge of transport, Lt. S. H. Clark (later Major in No. 71 Company) in charge of the mill, Lt. Oscar Larson in charge of the woods operations, and Lt. C. W. Field, Adjt. Lt. Field later transferred to the R.C.A.F. and Lt. "Bob" Day was appointed Adjt.

The men were recruited from the different lumbering districts so that no one district would be supplying all the technical men. All technical positions were filled with qualified men before the Company left Edmonton, from mill sawyers to mill wrights, and the transport section was trade tested by Lt. Segar here. The remaining technical men were trade tested in Val Cartier.

The Company was fortunate in securing qualified NCO's for CSM, CQMS and CORs and the work of organization was thus made easier.

Mike Kutcher trained and turned out two outstanding boxers in Roy Maine and Eardley Jackson. Jackson went on to win the Eastern Canadian Championship in his class and was only prevented from competing in the finals by lack of time for training. Mike was assisted by Mickey McGill, who in his time was an outstanding boxer, and gave Jimmy McLaren of Vancouver one of his best fights, when both were lightweights.

Considerable changes took place in Val Cartier, when the Company supplied men to two different companies with reinforcements to bring them up to strength to go overseas. Then too, on reboard, a large number were boarded out, and reinforcements were supplied from eastern Canada.

The Company left for overseas June 19th, 1941, arriving at Gourrock July 1st and were allotted an area 14 miles from Inverness, and formed part of District No. 5. Production consisted of lumber, pit props, mine timbers and telephone poles.

Being in the restricted area, the Company carried out all phases of defence against possible invasion and were allocated their location for operations in case of invasion.

A considerable number of H.Q. staff was drawn from the original personnel of the Company and served with distinction. Several decorations were given members of the Company for outstanding work done.

Jan. 1945 the unit was broken up and personnel sent as reinforcements to units in N.W. Europe where they provided lumber and materials to the forces invading Germany.



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**" 4 1 8 "**

## **The City of Edmonton Squadron, R.C.A.F.**

**By GORDON WILLIAMSON**

On the spacious area of North West Air Command's, R.C.A.F. field at Edmonton, a peacetime auxiliary squadron is being born . . . A squadron that will endeavor to uphold a great reputation. A reputation, won by its wartime namesake, Squadron 418, the Squadron of the City of Edmonton . . .

This peacetime unit will be accomplishing a great deal if it can carry on in the same tradition as the squadron that won fame over the wartorn skies of Europe and above the troubled waters of the English Channel and the North Sea. It has a pair of exceptionally large shoes to try and fill, but its Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Dave Jackox, A.F.C., and his right hand men, Flight Lieutenant Harold Lisson, D.F.C., officer commanding the R.C.A.F. detachment of the Auxiliary Squadron and his adjutant, Flight Lieutenant Don Laubman, D.F.C. and Bar, are confident that the great record of 418 from 1941 to 1945, will not suffer through the efforts of the peacetime 418.

Flight Lieutenant Lissen was Commanding Officer of 418, the Canadian Intruder Squadron, at the time the City of Edmonton made the adoption on St. Patrick's day, 1943. Don Laubman was not with the famous unit, but won his spurs as a single engine fighter pilot, and piled up the highest score of any Canadian pilot following D Day .

Edmonton and Northern Alberta has every reason to be proud of the fact that the Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force, known as 418, turned out to be the highest scoring squadron of the R.C.A.F. and for that matter the Allied Air Forces . . .

Squadron 418 first saw the light of day at Debden, Essex, England, in December, 1941. That was when a group of young Canadians at the R.C.A.F. reception centre in England, were on parade one morning when the call was made for volunteers to carry out special work. Little did those men know, when they stepped out of the ranks that they were to form the foundation of a unit that was to become a scourge to the Hun and win an international reputation for success achieved, against the enemy.

There were men from all over Canada in that small select group, and to mention only a few, there were F/L Archie Martin, D.F.C. of Ottawa, F/L Bud Cooke, of Sorel, Que., F/L Keith Reynolds of London, Ont., Pilot Officer Paul Marlatte of Lillooett, B.C., now presumed dead, Flying Officer Earl Motron, D.F.C. of Three Hills Plains, N.S., (now dead), and Flight Lieutenant Doug Alcorn, D.F.C. of Toronto. . . These are only a few, but they give an idea of the way that Canada was represented in the original group of men, who travelled to Debden, Essex to form Canada's Intruder Squadron.

It was when they arrived at Debden that they were advised of the nature of their work. They were to fly Bostons, their duties were to shoot up trains, strafe terminal depots, or hover over enemy airfields waiting "to intrude" . . .

The Squadron worked in close co-operation with their big brothers . . . the bombers. When the heavies set out for a target somewhere in Germany, the



intruders would also be airborne. Their task was to patrol enemy airfields, and when enemy night fighters took off or attempted to take off determined to interfere with the flight of the bombers of the R.A.F. and the R.C.A.F., the intruders would step into the picture.

On other occasions they were airborne when the Hun was staging a raid on England. When word reached the heart of air operations in England that enemy aircraft were on their way, word would go out to the Intruders to scramble. Into the murky night would go these young men . . . their target some enemy airfield where the brains behind intruder operations believed the enemy aircraft might attempt to land on their return from the raid. Over and around the field the intruders would carry out their patrol. Spending hours in the dark European skies, until, if they were fortunate, they'd sight an enemy aircraft returning from its trip to the British Isles. Then the intruder would go to work . . . as the cocky Hun pilot, sighed at the thought of being home and of a night flying supper . . . the intruder would swoop in, leaving his calling card and saying "pardon our intrusion" through the medium of cannon shell and machine gun fire.

Little did those early boys of the squadron realize that someday their unit would become feared and famous for the specialized work of daylight ranging. They introduced the method of attack and brought it up to perfection. For days, sometimes for weeks they would work over intelligence reports, indicating the Luftwaffe was carrying out certain training in a certain area . . . that there was a congregation of aircraft in some certain centre. Navigator and pilot would spend days plotting a course. Then, when the weather was right, (low cloud was a "must" for such work,) the crew or perhaps two crews would take off . . . and ranging far and wide over occupied Europe swept in on their target area, shooting up aircraft at rest on the ground or operating in the air.

An example of the success the Squadron enjoyed in this special type of work might be seen in the fact that on January 27th, 1944, four aircraft from 418 took off late one afternoon, and returned four hours later to report seven enemy aircraft destroyed, in the air, in the short period of eight minutes. That was the first big "kill", for the Squadron and from that time on, their score mounted by leaps and bounds.

The unit first started its operations in the spring of 1942—after a long period of training. As mentioned, originally they used Bostons, but in the summer of 1943, they converted to the speedy wooden wonder, the Mosquito, with its four cannon, four machine guns and capable of carrying a ton of bombs if necessary.

It was the move to the "Mossie" that seemed to set the stage for the great success the squadron was to enjoy. Losses were reduced, and night after night through 1943, A or B flight went on readiness, and many a time both flights were ready for action as Bomber Command laid on bigger and bigger attacks on enemy targets.

Then in 1944, with the perfection of daylight ranging, the squadron was busier than ever. Frequently a crew of two, pilot and navigator, would spend anywhere from three to six hours on an intruder trip during the night, to return in the early hours of the morning and after a quick nap, take off again on a Daylight ranger jaunt because the "Met" reported conditions favorable.



It was that spirit . . . to do more than they were asked to do, that won a great deal of fame for the squadron. And the squadron spirit was something that high ranking "Brass", exclaimed over whenever the occasion prompted a visit to wherever the unit was based. From the lowest man in the ranks, right through to the Commanding Officer, there was a spirit of team play and understanding noticeable and prevalent at all times.

True, there were the usual beefs, grub, mail from home, loss of sleep, etc., but when the work had to be done, the groundcrew had the aircraft ready, when the aircrew reported for take off. And it is doubtful if the ground crew of any airforce unit received higher praise than the intruders paid the young men from all sections of Canada, sprinkled here and there with boys of the R.A.F., who kept their "Kites", flying.

From their first operation on April 26th, 1943 through to November 21st, 1944, the squadron destroyed 105 enemy aircraft in the air—72 aircraft on the ground. They had 9 listed as probably destroyed. They damaged 31 enemy aircraft in the air and 72 on the ground and they destroyed 79½ robot bombs.

That's right, the Intruders were called in when the Hun started sending his so-called "Victory Weapon", towards England. Day after day the intruders spent on patrol over the English channel shooting down the flying bombs. Night after night they carried out the same work and the Commanding Officer of 418, the City of Edmonton Squadron, Wing Commander Russel Bannock, D.S.O., D.F.C., became a master at doodle-bug killing. He destroyed 19½ robots, the highest score of any R.C.A.F. pilot.

The Intruders were busy on D Day, and it has been reliably reported that the first Allied Aircraft to be over Normandy when the D Day operation began was a Mosquito, piloted by F/O Merv Simms, D.F.C., of Vancouver with F/O Jim Sharples, D.F.C., of Toronto, (now dead), as his navigator. They were working in close conjunction with the air-borne troops . . . holding the enemy fighters on the ground, trying to make the job just a little easier for the Para Troops and the boys in the gliders, destined to do such a great job in the operation that started the Allies on the road to Victory.

On March 14th, 1945, the work of the intruders increased and from that time until VE Day, they flew a total of 44,471.15 hours, completed seventy-nine sorties, regretfully listed 11 crews as failing to return from targets on the path to victory. And during the period they chalked up a record like this:

Type of Target	Destroyed	Damaged	Strikes Seen
Mechanical Transports .....	182	110	221
Trains .....	1	14	27
Locomotives .....	6	7	7
Goods Waggons .....	12	5	11
Factories .....		8	
Railway Stations .....		2	
Barrack Blocks .....		2	
Barges .....		2	10
Boats .....			5



To mention the names of any particular man or men of 418 Squadron, the Squadron of the City of Edmonton, would be unfair to other men of the unit. Every man pulled his weight, there were those on whom dame fortune smiled and those who night after night took off, spent hours in the air, to return to base and regretfully report "No Joy".

But mention should be made of men such as Group Captain Paul Y. Davoud, D.S.O., D.F.C., now with T. C. Airlines, who as Commanding Officer of the unit late in 1943 and January 1944, did a great deal in the building up of the spirit of the squadron. Of F/L Johnny Caine, D.F.C. and two bars of Edmonton, with twenty-two aircraft destroyed to his credit. Of S/L Charles Scherf, D.S.O., D.F.C., an Australian with the Canadian Intruders who finished his regular tour of operations with seven enemy aircraft destroyed to his credit, and then returned to make three "extra holiday" trips and wound up destroying another 15 planes the Luftwaffe could not afford to lose.

There was S/L Bob Kipps, D.S.O., D.F.C., of Kamloops, who with his navigator F/L Pete Huletsky, D.F.C. of Montreal, destroyed 13 enemy aircraft, four of them Focke Wulf 190s, all shot down in one night's work and in the short space of five minutes.

There's S/L Harold Lisson, now F/L Harold Lisson, D.F.C., Officer Commanding the R.C.A.F. Detachment of 418 Auxiliary Squadron who in addition to many successful sorties against the enemy, also made many a trip on the "Q.T." to drop badly needed supplies to the Maquis, and who was also working in conjunction with Gibson's Dam busters when they made their attack on the Dortmund Emms Canal on the edge of the Ruhr Valley.

Another successful intruder crew was W/C Don MacFadyen, D.S.O. and Bar of Toronto and his navigator F/L Pinky Wright of Rosthern, Sask., who carried out many highly successful attacks on enemy aircraft. On one trip alone, with another crew of Lieutenant Lou Luma, an American with the Intruders and his Navigator F/L Colin Finlayson, D.F.C. and Bar, of Victoria, B.C., the two intruders returned to base to report 8 enemy aircraft and twenty gliders destroyed. Another successful pilot was F/L Stan Cotterell, D.F.C., who in one night destroyed four enemy aircraft, but went missing a short time later.

The list is long . . . the men who piled up the scores . . . the men who kept flying night after night . . . doing everything they asked of them and more . . . and the men who kept the aircraft airborne . . . the "Erks" . . . Many of them, in fact most of them are now home in Canada . . . Others . . . and there are many of them, won't be coming home. They paid the supreme sacrifice, but did so, happy in their achievements. . . happy in the fact they formed a small part of a Great Canadian Squadron, 418, The City of Edmonton Squadron . . . the squadron G/C Davoud called, "A Unit that in every sense of the word is a Squadron's Squadron".



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## The Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Movement

The Navy League Sea Cadet Movement is national in scope and embraces 97 Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps with a total enrollment of 15,200 cadets and officers.

Its primary object is to develop character. It teaches self-discipline and trains a boy to think for himself. It teaches him the value of team work, how to work in unison for his own good and the good of others. He learns that in order to command he must first learn to obey. He learns to respect authority.

This movement was started in Canada in 1896, when the first branch of the Navy League of Canada was established. Therefore it is not new but rather something that has attracted public-spirited men for nearly 50 years. The whole idea was to help direct boys and young men along the road to better citizenship. It was felt that by giving the youth of Canada a worthwhile training, it would safeguard our country's future.

These men were not sailors and few knew a great deal about the navy. But they did realize that the Navy is one of the Empire's oldest symbols of discipline and that the sailors who made up its personnel were men who were proud of their uniforms and who had developed a spirit of loyalty.

Boys were not trained for a war or because Canada needed a large navy. They were put into uniform because it was felt that in this way they could learn something to prepare them for their part in a democratic way of life.



Lt. Baaken and Lt.-Cmdr. Rodney Pike inspecting Sea Cadets at Lake Wabamun, Aug. 1946.



In time of war the Navy League Sea Cadet Movement has been of immense value to Canada and the Empire. This was true in the First Great War and again in the war recently ended. It was found that boys who had sea cadet training in previous years were valuable in filling the need for a quickly-growing navy. These boys had received training in fundamentals and had learned to accept discipline. They had not been trained for war but were ready to assume the responsibilities of citizenship when the emergency arose.

This training is equally valuable to the nation and to the boys, in days of peace. It equips them to face life's responsibilities with a confidence they might not otherwise possess. It gives them a better chance to decide on a life career and in this, they also have the advantage of the counsel of older men, men who are interested and who are anxious to see each lad in his proper niche—and a success.

In many, many cases sea cadet training has wetted a boy's appetite for knowledge and caused him to take more seriously to his school studies. In a sea cadet corps he learns that he can concentrate and this has led to the discovery of a quality that neither the boy nor his parents had previously been aware.

This phase of sea cadet training has been encouraged by the Navy League of Canada, the sponsoring organization through the awarding of scholarships, annually, to The Royal Canadian Naval College at Royal Roads, B.C. Since 1943, when the Navy League adopted the policy of awarding these scholarships, a total of 17 have been won and awarded—five the first year and six for each of the past two years, that is, 1944 and 1945.

The Scholarship involves a two-year course for which University credits are given. The financial value of a scholarship is approximately \$900.00. It is noteworthy that, this year, the candidate obtaining the highest standing, among ALL candidates, was a Navy League sea cadet. It is also to be noted that a lad taking this course is quite free to choose his future career. In other words, it is not obligatory that he join the Navy or enter upon a naval career.

Some six thousand sea cadets joined the active forces during the war, mostly the Navy and Merchant Navy. Many of them were decorated and mentioned in despatches. It is said that there was not one important naval action, in which Canadian ships were involved, that there was not one or more former permanent sea cadets.

In recent years the Navy League has established permanent summer camps throughout the country and there are now 14 of these in operation.

These camps are operated in conjunction with the Department of Naval Affairs whose co-operation has made such expansion possible. Sea cadets are given every facility for putting into actual use the training they have received in barracks. They are taught how to handle boats, how to swim correctly, sail dinghies and whalers, and, on the larger ships, they are taught navigation, engineering and a score of other useful subjects.

This instruction is under the direction of competent naval officers and transmitted to the cadets through their own cadet officers and instructors.





Sea Cadet Cutters at Lake Wabamun, Aug. 1946

A camp period is two weeks and at the end of each period there is great competition for regatta honours. All this brings out good sportsmanship qualities.

The camp at Lake Wabamun, 40 miles west of Edmonton, is sponsored by the Northern Alberta Division of the Navy League. This camp is ideally situated and is equipped with permanent buildings and every kind of training craft and equipment. Boys from detachments at Camrose, Wetaskiwin, Wainwright, Millet, Lac La Biche and Edmonton have attended in large numbers each summer. The value of this training cannot be over-emphasized.

The sea cadet movement is purely voluntary and its success to date is largely due to the unselfish devotion of thousands of interested civilians who act on cadet committees or who give a large portion of their spare time in the capacity of sea cadet officers.

The Northern Alberta Division of the Navy League under the Presidency of Mr. J. G. Nickerson, O.B.E., and the Sea Cadet Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Roy C. Jackson, K.C., deserve great credit for their splendid work in guiding and directing the Sea Cadet movement in Northern Alberta.

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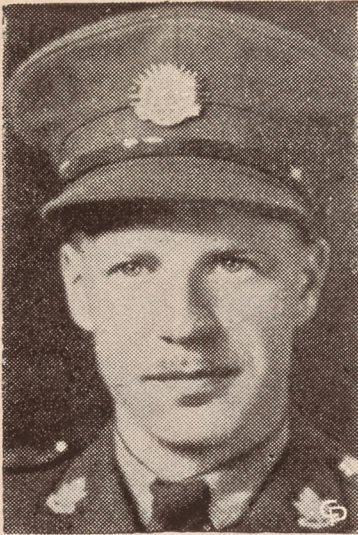
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EDMONTON



## Royal Canadian Army Cadets

BY MAJOR JOHN K. MAHONY, V.C., G. S. (CADETS) WESTERN COMMAND  
CDN. ARMY



Major John K. Mahoney, V.C.,  
G.S. (Cadets)  
Western Command Cdn. Army

It is axiomatic that the future of any country, whether large or small, lies in the hands of its youth who must be prepared to take up the burden laid down by older men.

The object of Royal Canadian Army Cadet Training as laid down by the Director of Army Cadets in Ottawa is as follows:

"To give mental, moral and physical training to boys and so to form their characters as to enable them to start well in life; to develop in them principles of patriotism and good citizenship that will enable them to accept their responsibilities as Canadians."

The necessity for training Canadian boys of every race or denomination as leaders in Provincial and National life is something which every patriotic citizen will agree is his or her moral responsibility.

Let us look at Cadet training as embodied in the Royal Canadian Army

Cadets from the point of view of national wealth when we train young boys firstly to wage life's battle as strong men whether it be for commercial, industrial or professional life, and secondly to be loyal citizens of a great Dominion.

It must be remembered that a Cadet is not a soldier. He takes no oath of military service.

Some of the advantages of Cadet Training to the Cadets themselves are:

- (a) It provides a good setting-up drill for boys physically.
- (b) It builds stronger moral character, and teaches true patriotism which is not an arrogant or offensive consciousness of national importance but the boy's genuine faith in himself and his country.
- (c) Teaches boys to be intelligently obedient to proper authority.
- (d) By group training defines in the boy's mind the need of active co-operation with his fellow boys and men.
- (e) Brings out those qualities of leadership which are so essential to the future of our country.
- (f) Cadet training makes a boy careful of his language and manners, and to value neatness and cleanliness, and thus develops a conscious personal dignity, which is an important element in his character.



The Cadet movement in Canada is based primarily on the school. The great majority of Cadet Corps are sponsored by School Boards and the actual instruction is done by school teachers, who, after passing qualifying courses, may become commissioned Officers in the Cadet Services of Canada. These officer instructors give unstintingly of their time and effort and are the backbone of the instructional effort in most Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

Royal Canadian Army Cadets are divided into two groups, namely, Junior and Senior Cadets.

The Juniors are boys who are over the age of 12 years and under 15 years.

The Seniors are boys 15 years and under 18 years of age as of 1st of September of the current school year.

Cadet Corps of the RCAC are divided into two classifications:

- (a) School Cadet Corps formed under the sponsorship of the proper school authorities.
- (b) Open Cadet Corps formed outside schools. Under the sponsorship of Militia Units, Service Clubs or other bodies or persons.

The vast majority of Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps are school Cadet Corps.

The sponsors of the Cadet Corps purchase the Cadet uniforms from the Government for a nominal sum of \$7.50 per uniform, paid in three yearly instalments of \$2.50.

In return, following the annual corps inspection, the sponsors of the Cadet Corps receive a yearly grant of \$1.25 for each Cadet on parade in uniform plus a capitation grant of \$1.00 for each Senior Cadet and 50c for each Junior Cadet and a band grant of \$2.00 for each instrument, in the case of Corps which have their own bands.

The present training syllabus is streamlined for the days of peace, covering a wide range of subjects for the training of both Seniors and Juniors. Every effort is made to keep the training interesting and progressive.

Physical Education, first aid, social studies, map reading, woodcraft, fieldcraft, drill, signalling, internal combustion engines, conservation of game and forest, and many other interesting subjects are taught by competent instructors.

Probably one of the most interesting and popular subjects a Cadet learns is the care and use of the rifle, and every boy has an opportunity to fire the rifle, both on his local range and in competition for many of the interesting matches open to the Army Cadet, such as: The Earl Grey Challenge Trophy Competition; The Royal Military College Inter-Schools Rifle Competition; The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Competition; The Provincial Rifle Associations Competitions; The Strathcona Trust Fund Competition; The Galer Haggerty Memorial Prize Competition; and the competition for "King George V" Cup, a trophy presented by His Majesty the Late King George V, with ten Silver, ten Bronze medals added by the directors of the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto.

A Cadet Camp is held in each Military District for ten days during the summer months. Cadets from all outlying communities are transported to camp



at no personal expense. Last year 1,200 Alberta R.C.A.C. Cadets attended the summer camp held at Sarcee. The camps are always very popular with the boys.

Many Cadet Corps are affiliated, and even in some cases sponsored by, Reserve Force units. In such cases the Commanding Officer of the Reserve unit assists the instructors of the Cadet Corps in Training and Administration in many ways, such as permitting the Cadets to parade in the Reserve unit armouries, use the unit's vehicles and equipment, and providing his officers and N.C.O.'s to assist in Cadet Training.

In Western Command, which is comprised of Military Districts 11 and 13, there are approximately 200 Cadet Corps; and 7,000 Cadets. The size of the Corps range from small Corps of about 20 boys in the smaller outlying communities to Corps of 200 and 300 Cadets in the larger communities.

For purposes of administration, Western Command is divided into five Cadet Areas. British Columbia has three areas, namely

- (a) Vancouver and Lower Fraser Valley Area.
- (b) Vancouver Island Area.
- (c) Interior British Columbia Area.

Alberta is divided into two areas, namely

- (a) Southern Alberta Area.
- (b) Northern Alberta Area.

Permanent Force Officers with the rank of Captain or Lieutenant are in charge of each area, and to assist them they have an administration and training staff which is comprised of 12 Permanent Force Non-commissioned officers within Western Command.

These Officers and N.C.O.'s pay regular visits to the Cadet Corps in their area to supervise and assist in training, and to keep the Corps supplied with the necessary equipment to carry out adequate training.

An annual inspection of each Cadet Corps is made towards the close of the school year. A report is made on each Corps following the inspection and it is submitted to Army Headquarters, following which the uniform, capitation, and band grants are paid to the sponsors of the Corps.

During the summer months qualifying and promotional courses are held in each district for the instructors of the Cadet Corps. The length of these courses varies from two weeks to one month.

The Cadet movement in Western Command, and in fact throughout the Dominion, is a healthy one. New Cadet Corps are being formed and those presently functioning are keen and enthusiastic.

There is no better means of properly guiding Canadian youth into our National life than sensible training during the years when they are passing through the portals of public and high school.

The last eighty years is a record of achievement in Cadet Training, and the best thing about it is that the boy takes the training of his own will, voluntarily following the principles of freedom for which this nation fought during the recent conflict.



Public spirited citizens in every community in Canada realize that the future of Canada depends on our sons and daughters who are attending school today.

It is imperative that some sort of training must be provided to develop in these young people, the realization of preparing themselves for the privilege of assuming full patriotic citizenship as Canadian leaders of the future.

Royal Canadian Army Cadet training is designed for that objective.

It should be the duty of every parent or public spirited citizen to encourage these young people to train themselves for the heritage which is their's to hold and maintain in the adventurous years which lie ahead for this great country of ours as a leading nation taking an important part in the world today.

Cadet training has received the enthusiastic endorsement of leaders in civic and national affairs and Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, international statesman had this to say in a recent message to Cadets of the British Empire.

"I send my very good wishes to the Army Cadet Force and to all members of Cadet Corps throughout the British Commonwealth.

In the education of youth and the building up of the nation, nothing is more essential than the function of habits of discipline from school years onward. The activities of the Cadet Movement make a magnificent contribution to this end, and they form one of the most valuable factors towards a more stable and progressive future. I welcome this movement as one of the most promising signs of progress in our great world wide group."

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## The Royal Canadian Air Cadets

Inasmuch as Edmonton is probably the most air-minded city in Canada, it was only fitting that one of the first Air Cadet squadrons to be formed should have been No. 12 (Edmonton) Squadron. No sooner had the Air Cadet League been inaugurated in 1941 than an Air Cadet Committee was formed in Edmonton, and one month after recruiting had started there were two hundred cadets taking instruction. Great credit and praise are due the original Civilian Committee which set an example of energy and efficiency which was to mark the activities of the Squadron itself. C. D. MacKenzie was the first Commanding Officer, appointed by the Committee, which was headed by Mr. J. H. Wildman, and which included such civic leaders as A. D. Harvie, William Muir, C. D. Jacox, Fred Kemp and John Michaels.

At first the Squadron was somewhat peripatetic. During the first year of its life it was located in the Prince of Wales Armouries, the Arena at No. 3 Manning Depot, No. 16 E.F.T.S. and No. 2 A.O.S. Finally, it found a somewhat permanent home when it became affiliated with No. 4 I.T.S., whose Commanding Officer, G/C J. A. Hutchison, treated the cadets as part of his own school.

In September, 1942, the Squadron was completely re-organized. The squadron strength had grown to over three hundred and it was found necessary to form another squadron, No. 395. Since that time the Edmonton Air Cadets have operated as a Wing.

With the closing of No. 4 I.T.S. the Squadrons moved their quarters over to the Administration Building of North West Air Command, by the kind permission of A/V/M Lawrence, then A.O.C. At present the two Squadrons are sharing accommodation with No. 418 Auxiliary Squadron of the R.C.A.F. in the Maintenance Hangar at North West Air Command, but by the time this appears in print they will be permanently located in the Edmonton Station Recreation Hall. Air Commodore Gordon, Air Officer Commanding North West Air Command has kindly offered the use of the building to the Air Cadets and they are now busy building six classrooms in their new quarters. The Squadrons also have to thank Air Commodore Gordon for permission to use the R.C.A.F. Drill Hall, complete with swimming pool, each Friday evening on the cadets' sports parade.

The personnel of the Civilian Committee, of the officer staff and of the Squadrons themselves have almost completely changed, over the six years' of life of the local organization. A. D. Harvie and Fred Kemp are the sole surviving members of the original committee. The other members of the present committee are: H. A. Dyde, Chairman; J. A. Hutchison, D. W. Jacox, Eric Duggan and J. C. Paterson.

F/O R. W. Johnson, lately C.O. of the Squadrons, is the last of the old-line officers. He has been with the boys since 1941 and has been forced to sever his connection with the Squadrons as his business is taking him to Grande Prairie. He was succeeded by Squadron Leader Frank J. Edwards, who took over command of the Squadrons last October.

The Royal Canadian Air Cadet syllabus is an extensive one that takes in both ground and air work. The syllabus has been prepared by experienced



R.C.A.F. instructors and is a progressive one. Basic principles are taught when the cadet first enrolls, advanced studies being emphasized in the last year of the three-year course. Up-to-date training equipment is available for instructional purposes. The cadets have one Fairchild aircraft complete, for the study of aero engines and air frames. A modern radio receiver and transmitter and all types of navigational instruments are on hand to assist in instruction.

The Squadrons meet once a week and take two hours of instruction each night. In all they take 250 hours of instruction in the fifteen subjects of the syllabus over a three-year period. The Provincial Department of Education allows each air cadet two credits on his high school programme for completing a year of air cadet work.

Navigation is the most time-consuming and most interesting subject in the syllabus. It takes up one-quarter of the time allotted in the syllabus. From basic ideas the cadet progresses until he can chart a flight entailing a square search for a missing aircraft or a raid on Stuttgart or Essen. Theory of Flight, Engines and Meteorology are other subjects which receive a large amount of emphasis. High standings in the examinations go a long way toward assuring the cadets a flying scholarship, which is the goal if every member of the Squadrons.

To finish the year's work the Squadrons have a two-week summer camp at one of the R.C.A.F. stations. Last summer they spent their time at Paulson, Manitoba. The two weeks are taken up with an additional 55 hours of instruction by air force instructors. Familiarization flights in R.C.A.F. aircraft are a highlight of the visit. Senior cadets will be given the opportunity of navigating the aircraft on these flights.

Originally, air cadets were not permitted to fly but in 1942 familiarization flights at summer camp were instituted. Now outstanding air cadets are awarded R.C.A.F. Flying Scholarships. These are four-week courses which include full ground school instruction capped by two hours of solo flying. Five Edmonton cadets learned to fly on these scholarships last summer, and it is hoped that more than that number will earn their air cadet wings this coming summer.

In addition to the above scholarships the Provincial Committee awards fifteen flying scholarships each year. Two of our boys were fortunate enough to secure these scholarships last year. Arrangements are now being made whereby another six Edmonton cadets may be able to secure flying lessons. Truly, the Royal Canadian Air Cadets have much to offer the youth of Edmonton.

In the near future 46 Royal Canadian Air Cadets will be selected to fly to Britain in a Lancastrian for a three-week visit to R.A.F. stations. Interest in this trip is at a high level as Edmonton has a right to nominate two cadets for the trip. Some fortunate Edmonton lad may be in London next July.

Since the inauguration of the Edmonton squadrons, some 1,300 cadets have received instruction and over 150 of them saw service with the R.C.A.F. A total of eleven cadets have received flying scholarships and ten graduates are now employed by commercial airlines. These facts attest to the splendid work that has been done by Nos. 12 and 395 Squadrons, backed by the untiring work and good advice of the Civilian Committee.



## EDMONTON MILITARY INSTITUTE

**President's Report**

To the Members,  
Edmonton Military Institute.

Gentlemen:

Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, it was decided to suspend for the duration the activities of the Institute. A board of Trustees was appointed to administer the assets. This Board was composed of the late Lt. Col. H. K. Groff, V.D., Lt. Col. P. S. Warren, and Major A. T. Neale. Lt. Col. E. Brown, M.M., E.D., later filled the vacancy caused by the transfer of Col. Groff to another station. The Board functioned through the six long years of war, and the Institute is grateful to these gentlemen for the faithful discharge of their duties.

In June, 1945, the Trustees called a meeting of some of the former members of the Institute and it was decided to resume the activities in the Fall. On the 5th of October, 1945, a general meeting was held and Officers appointed.

The immediate tasks set the Board of Directors were those of (a) reviving interest in the work of the Institute, and (b) building up the membership anew.

**Revival of Interest.**

In dealing with the first task, I think it will be appropriate if I set out the objects for which the Institutes exist. Military Institutes are a creation of The Department of National Defence, and are supported by annual grants. They are, therefore, quasi-military bodies. The objects set out in Article II of our Constitution are:

- (a) The study of Military Subjects (Naval, Army, Air)
- (b) Assistance to Units of the Naval, Land and Air Forces of Canada
- (c) Establishment of a Library and Museum
- (d) Establishment of a Club for the accommodation, recreation, and entertainment of its members.

It should be borne in mind that a very large number of potential members, comprising Officers who had not seen service prior to World War II, had no knowledge of the Institute or its purpose. It was, therefore, decided to have the first general meeting, following the election of Officers, addressed by the then D.O.C., M.D. No. 13, Brig. F. M. W. Harvey, V.C., M.C. The subject of the address was "The History of the Edmonton Military Institute and its functions." At this meeting the question of securing club premises was discussed. The D.O.C. advised against this, and pointed out that the home of the Institute was in the Garrison Officers' Mess, which would be available when the Active Service Mess vacated. However, this did not take place for several months, and the work of the Directors has been handicapped to some extent because it has not been possible to provide the facilities for social activities essential to the task of creating interest in the Institute. With the fusion of the Reserve Units and the Institute into a composite "club" to come into operation in 1947, no further difficulties should be encountered.

**Membership.**



In carrying out the task of building up the membership it has been the policy of the Directors to recruit Officers who have served in the Navy, Army and Air Force. Reference to the list of members will indicate that this policy, on the whole has met with success, although we would like to see a larger representation from the Navy. The total paid up membership is now about 250, the largest in the history of the Institute. This has been accomplished in a period when there was little to offer in the way of social inducements, for the reason already stated above. An active campaign should now be undertaken to double the membership at least.

### Meetings.

In all, thirteen (13) General Meetings have been held, and these are listed in Appendix "A" to this Report. The average attendance has been well over 100, which is quite gratifying. The subject matter of the addresses has been in keeping with the objects of the Institute.

### Assistance to the Forces.

Not a great deal has been accomplished. The Reserve Forces are only now being re-organized on a new Peace-Time basis. When this has been accomplished it should not be overlooked by either the Units or the Institute that they can be of mutual assistance in promoting interest in their respective roles. I hope it will be found possible to revive the Junior Officers' Lectures, and to award a grant for the lecture having the greatest merit. These lectures were a very useful feature before the War. It is gratifying to note that Civilian Committees are again being formed to stimulate interest in the Reserve Forces. This Institute was instrumental in the formation of similar Committees in 1938 and there is no doubt that they proved of real benefit.

There is scope for assisting the Cadet Units which should not be overlooked. In April, 1946, \$50.00 was donated by the Institute for the purchase of a Cup for annual competition in Inter-Cadet Boxing. Medals were also provided for the winners in the various classes. Keen interest in the competition was shown and the Cup was won by the Air Force Cadets.

### Library.

In 1938 the Institute provided the means for housing the Library in the Garrison Officers' Mess, and up to the end of 1939 quite a sizeable library had been created.

During the war years no supervision was possible, and although a number of the books are missing, there is still the nucleus of a good library. Major Hector Kennedy, D.S.O., has offered to act as Librarian and has already commenced the task of cataloguing the books. Over \$60 has been expended in the past year on new volumes and a list of these together with others donated, appears in Appendix "B" to this report.

It is hoped that Officers of the Reserve Forces will make use of the many books on military subjects which will be found in the Library. Members are invited to donate suitable books to the collection.



### Other Activities; Dinner.

In conjunction with the Active Service Garrison Officers' Mess, a Dinner was held on 11th of December, 1945, to honour the retiring D.O.C., M.D. No. 13, Brig. F. M. W. Harvey, V.C., M.C., which was very well attended.

### Reception.

To do honour to General H. D. G. Crerar, C.H., C.B., D.S.O., former G.O.C. Canadian Army Overseas, on 11th of February, 1946, a Reception and Tea was arranged by the Institute for the General and Mrs. Crerar. Many distinguished guests, including the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Bowen, were invited. Over 250 Officers, their wives, Nursing Sisters, and Officers of the Women's Divisions of the three Services attended.

### Affiliation.

In March, 1946, your Directors appointed a Committee, with Major Sydney Wood, K.C., as Chairman, to work on the formation of a Dominion wide affiliation of all Military Institutes. The United Services Institute of Regina has taken a leading part in this work and the latest report is that, while progress has of necessity been slow, the final draft of a constitution has been prepared. It is proposed to have a representative of the Department of National Defence on the Council. Affiliation with this Dominion wide organization will undoubtedly be of benefit in an interchange of ideas and speakers and will further the objects for which the Institutes exist.

### Annual Journal.

Your Directors wisely decided to continue the policy of publishing the Journal of the Institute, and this should be off the press in January, 1947. We are indebted to Lt. Col. H. C. L. Gillman, V.D., and Major W. M. Kerr for undertaking the task of compiling and editing this publication, which I am sure will prove of real interest to all our members.

### Obituaries.

In the course of seven years it is inevitable that some of our old members should pass on. The list to be published in the Journal reveals the names of many who gave outstanding service to this Institute. We mourn their loss deeply. Their devotion to duty and their splendid examples of citizenship will long be an inspiration to us.

### Financial Reports.

The audited Financial Statements will be presented by the Secretary-Treasurer. Due to the late date in 1945 at which the Institute started to function again, the revenue and Expenditure Statement covers the period from 1st of October, 1945, to 30th of November, 1946. Only one fee has been collected from members in that period and so, considering the large number of meetings held and the other activities, the statement of Assets reflects a satisfactory condition.



**Acknowledgments.**

To the Vice-President and to the members of the Board of Directors who have contributed so much to the direction of the affairs of the Institute during this period of "revival", I tender my very sincere thanks. Their help and advice have been invaluable. I also wish to thank the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer and the Assistant Secretary for their part in the activities of the past year.

On behalf of the Institute I extend thanks and appreciation to the following:

**Messrs. Kinnaird and Aylen, C.A.**, for services donated in auditing and preparing Financial Statements.

**Lt. Col. R. W. Hale, M.C.**, and **Major J. R. C. Carter**, Area commandants, for their help and support in arrangements for meetings, etc.

**Lt. Col. Hugh Pearson, M.C.**, and **Lt. Col. John Proctor, O.B.E.**, for the use of the Victoria Armouries for Directors' Meetings.

**Lt. Col. G. D. K. Kinnaird, E.D.**, and the Garrison Officers' Mess for providing refreshments, etc., at monthly meetings.

**The City Editors of the Edmonton Bulletin and The Edmonton Journal** for inserting notices and reporting meetings in the Press.

Finally I wish to thank all members for their support throughout the period. It has been a privilege and honour to serve as President of the Institute.

In concluding this Report I would like to remind members that they can be of real assistance to the Board of Directors by constructive criticism, by attendance at meetings, and other functions, and finally by submitting the names of those eligible for membership.

It should not be overlooked by all former Officers of the Three Services that it is their duty to keep informed and in touch with the trends of Military thought. The one medium for this is the Military Institute. Here also is offered a splendid opportunity for keeping alive that wonderful spirit of comradeship which, fostered by war, should be perpetuated in peace.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCIS NEAL, MAJOR,

President,

Edmonton Military Institute.

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## EDMONTON MILITARY INSTITUTE

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
for period from October 1st, 1945, to November 30th, 1946.

## RECEIPTS

Cash in Bank of Nova Scotia—September 30th, 1945 .....		\$ 19.02
Current dues to December 31st, 1946 .....	\$467.00	
Less Refund, Applicant ineligible .....	2.00	
	<u>465.00</u>	
Dues paid in advance for 1947 .....	2.00	467.00
	<u>-----</u>	
Interest on Dominion of Canada Bonds .....		48.00
Bank Interest .....		.43
	<u>-----</u>	
Total Receipts .....		<u>\$534.45</u>

## DISBURSEMENTS

Expense re Reception to General and Mrs. Crerar .....	\$ 56.50
Floral tribute—Col. Carstairs .....	7.50
Trophy and Medals—Inter-Cadet Boxing Competitions .....	50.06
Garrison Officers' Mess re General Meetings .....	70.00
Printing Meeting Notices, Letterheads, Stationery, etc. ....	144.50
Stenographic work, notices, minutes, etc .....	45.73
Library additions .....	62.09
Postage and Excise .....	50.49
Poppy Fund Donation .....	5.00
Telephones and Telegraphs .....	4.64
Rent of Safety Deposit Box .....	3.00
	<u>-----</u>
Total Disbursements .....	499.51
Cash in Bank of Nova Scotia, November 30th, 1946 .....	34.94
	<u>-----</u>
	<u>\$534.45</u>

## ASSETS

Cash—Bank of Nova Scotia .....	\$ 34.94
Dominion of Canada 3% Bonds, due October 1st, 1952, at cost .....	395.06
Library and bookcases—nominal value of .....	1.00
Account Receivable—Annual Grant N.D.H.Q. 1946-7 .....	200.00
	<u>-----</u>
Total Assets as at November 30th, 1946 .....	<u>\$631.00</u>

Edmonton, Alberta, December 14th 1946.

We have audited the books and accounts of the Edmonton Military Institute for the period from September 30th, 1945 to November 30th, 1946, and we certify that the foregoing statement of receipts and disbursements is a correct summary of the transactions recorded therein. We have examined the Dominion of Canada Bonds shown in the above Assets.

KINNAIRD, AYLEN &amp; CO.

Chartered Accountants.



**APPENDIX "A"****RECORD OF GENERAL MEETINGS**  
**From October, 1945, to December, 1946.**

1. **October 5th, 1945.**  
Inaugural meeting—Election of Officers and appointment of Hon. Patrons and Vice-Presidents.
2. **November 16th, 1946.**  
Brig. F. M. W. Harvey, V.C., M.C. Subject: "The History of the Edmonton Military Institute, and Its Functions."
3. **December 7th, 1946.**  
Guest speaker: Brig. Churchill C. Mann, C.B.E., D.S.O., former Chief of Staff 1st Canadian Army, "Operations of Canadian Army in North-West Europe."
4. **January 25th, 1946.**  
Guest Speaker: S/L E. L. Baudoux, D.S.O., D.F.C., "Jet-Propelled Aircraft."
5. **February 22nd, 1946.**  
Speaker: Lt.-Comdr. Rodney Pike, R.C.N. (R), "The Battle of the Atlantic."
6. **March 25th, 1946.**  
Guest Speaker: Col. V. C. Steer-Webster, O.B.E., British War Office; Chief of the Mulberry Exhibition touring Canada. Subject: "Mulberry."
7. **April 26th, 1946.**  
Speaker: Brig. J. C. Jefferson, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E.D. "Canadians in Sicily and Italy."
8. **May 30th, 1946.**  
Guest Speaker: Col. J. Stilwell, Jr., son of General ("Vinegar Joe") Stilwell. Subject: "The Chinese Army and the Burma Campaign."
9. **June 30th, 1946.**  
Guest Speaker: F/L Mathieson, a member of British Secret Service in China, 1942-43. "Highlights of the Chinese War."
10. **October 4th, 1946.**  
Guest Speaker: Lt. Comdr. R. L. Gordon, R.C.N. (R). "Landing Craft Through 'Torch' and 'Neptune'."
11. **November 1st, 1946.**  
Guest Speaker: Capt. Lynn Yule, M.B.E., M.C., "De-Nazification Program."
12. **November 29th, 1946.**  
Guest Speaker: Major J. H. Mahony, V.C., Subject, "The Alaska Highway."
13. **December 20th, 1946.**  
Annual Meeting and election of Officers.




## APPENDIX "B"

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Title	Author	Remarks
The Canadian Army at War, 3 Vols. Vol. 1, The Canadians in Britain, 1939-1944. Vol. 2, The Italian Campaign. Vol. 3, Normandy.	Historical Sec., N.D.H.Q.	Institute Purchase
El Alamein to the River Sangro.	F/M Viscount Montgomery, K.G., G.C.B., D.S.O.	Donated by the Author
Normandy to the Baltic.	F/M Viscount Montgomery K.G., G.C.B., D.S.O.	Donated by the Author
The Story of "418". The City of Edmonton Squadron, R.C.A.F.	Compiled by S/L Gordon Williamson	Donated by W/C David Jacox, A.F.C.
The South Alberta Regiment.	Compiled from War Diary	Donated by Major H. Kennedy, D.S.O.
The Tenth Canadian Inf. Bde.	Major R. A. Paterson	Donated by Brig. J. C. Jefferson, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C., E.D.
The British Navy's Air Arm.	Owen Rutter	Donated by Navy League of Canada
The History of the Second World War, 9 Vols.	Editor, Sir John Hammerton, Mil. Ed: Maj.-Gen. Sir Charles Gwynne, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.	Institute Purchase
I Remember.	Maj.-Gen. The Hon. W. A. Griesbach, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., K.C.	Institute Purchase
The Law Marches West.	Sir Cecil E. Denny, Bt. formerly of R.N.W.P.	Donated by Major H. Kennedy, D.S.O.
General Marshall's Report to the Secretary of State (U.S.)	Gen. Marshall, U.S.A.	Donated by Col. F. C. Jamieson, V.D., K.C.
The Loyal Edmonton Regiment Memorial Booklet.	Memorial Service at Bilthoven, Holland, August 12, 1945	Donated
Beyond the Chindwin. (the Wingate Expedition, 1943)	Major Bernard Fergusson	Donated by Hon. J. C. Bowen, L.L.D.



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